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ACRONYMS

AAFFCO	Association of Afghan Freight Forwarding Companies
ABADE	Assistance in Building Afghanistan by Developing Enterprises
ABBAT	Association of International Transport Operators of Tajikistan
ACBR-IP	Afghanistan Central Business Registry-Intellectual Property
ACCI	Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries
ACD	Afghanistan Customs Department
AEO	Authorized Economic Operator
AIB	Afghanistan International Bank
AIRTO	Association of the International Road Transport Operators
ANCA	Afghanistan National Customs Academy
ANSA	Afghanistan National Standards Authority
APTTA	Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement
ASYCUDA	Automated System for Customs Data
ARFC	Afghanistan Rural Finance Co.
ATAR	Afghanistan Trade and Revenue Project
BCP	Border Crossing Point
BMM	Border Management Model
CAREC	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation
CBTA	Cross-Border Transport of Persons, Vehicles, and Goods
CHAMP	Commercial Horticulture and Agriculture Program
CLDP	Commercial Law Development Program
CSO	Central Statistics Organization
DAB	Da Afghanistan Bank
EGAT	Economic Growth and Trade
EIF	Economic Integration Forum
EPAA	Export Promotion Agency of Afghanistan
FAIDA	Financial Access for Investing in the Development of Afghanistan
FICCI	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries
GAIN	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIROA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GSP	Generalized System of Preferences
HKIA	Hamid Karzai International Airport
ICD	Inland Clearance Depot
IRU	International Road Transport Union
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
MOCI	Ministry of Commerce and Industries
MOIC	Ministry of Information and Culture
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MOTCA	Ministry of Transportation and Civil Aviation
MOPH	Ministry of Public Health
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding

MVT	Mobile Verification Team
NEPA	National Environmental Protection Agency
PATTTA	Pakistan Afghanistan Tajikistan Transit and Trade Agreement
PCA	Post Clearance Audit
PPQD	Plant Protection and Quarantine Department
PRA	Pest Risk Assessment
REC	Regional Economic Cooperation project
RKC	Revised Kyoto Convention
SAARC	South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation
SAFE	Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Trade
SAFTA	South Asian Free Trade Area Agreement
SATIS	SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
TCCI	Tajikistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry
TFA	Trade Facilitation Agreement
TIFA	Trade and Investment Framework Agreement
TIR	Transports Internationaux Routiers
TPAU	Trade Policy Analysis Unit
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
VAT	Value Added Tax
WCO	World Customs Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

A. PROJECT OVERVIEW

Chemonics, with partner Economic Integration Forum (EIF), implements USAID's Afghanistan Trade and Revenue (ATAR) project to support Afghanistan in realizing its full potential in the global trading market.

ATAR, which began Nov. 7, 2013, and will end Nov. 6, 2017, is based in Kabul and has staff in Mazar-e Sharif, Herat, and Jalalabad to support regional customs activities and works in Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan to strengthen Afghanistan's trade ties in Central Asia. ATAR provides assistance to improve the business climate of Afghanistan to enable private investment, enhanced trade, job creation, and fiscal sustainability through the country's critical transition period.

Specifically, ATAR is tasked with:

1. Improving the capacity of the Government of Afghanistan to create and implement a liberal policy framework for trade and investment in accordance with international standards;
2. Enhancing integration in the regional and world economy through the promotion of trade and agreements, enhanced governance of corridors, and private-sector linkages throughout South and Central Asia;
3. Strengthening revenue generation for fiscal sustainability and trade facilitation through reforms and anti-corruption measures in customs.

These objectives are achieved through three ATAR components:

Component 1: Support Trade Policy Liberalization

Component 1 promotes liberalization of Afghanistan's trade regime by supporting its accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). This support is accomplished by building the necessary technical capacity and providing technical assistance within the implementing institutions to conduct negotiations, draft legislation, and institute reforms required to improve the trade regime within the region and meet WTO requirements. The policies, laws, and regulations will provide a framework to attract investment and enable the private sector to grow and prosper.

Component 2: Facilitate Enhanced Access to Regional Markets

Under Component 2, ATAR (1) facilitates the development and implementation of regional trade agreements; (2) assists the Afghan government to support measures needed to implement regional trade agreements; and (3) supports the implementation of transport corridors and trade facilitating measures by working with countries such as Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Turkmenistan.

Component 3: Improved Customs Administration

Component 3 will enhance the Afghan government's capacity to generate revenue through implementation of value added tax (VAT)¹, in combination with outreach and enforcement, by improving customs procedures to increase transparency, efficiency, and uniformity in the collection of revenue, performance of core functions, and facilitation of trade.

¹ This activity is on hold pending instruction from USAID.

B. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Component 1: Support Trade Policy Liberalization

Summary of key achievements

With ATAR's continuous support, the Afghan government made significant progress in bringing Afghanistan's trade-related legislation in line with WTO requirements. ATAR provided support to the government as the laws proceeded from stage to stage and helped prepare for implementation of the laws through working groups and awareness seminars. Among the quarterly highlights, the Upper House of Parliament approved the Law on Geographical Indications and the Law on Plant Protection and Quarantine, and President Ghani endorsed the amendments to the Law on Trademarks, which entered into force in Afghanistan. In other notable developments, amendments to the Law on Patents and the Law on Industrial Designs proceeded from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) to the Council of Ministers.

ATAR held two productive meetings with the newly appointed Minister of Commerce and Industries to update him on Afghanistan's progress toward WTO accession and the benefits of WTO membership and provide clarifications regarding Afghanistan's terms of accession. The Minister wanted to be fully prepared before presenting WTO to the Council of Ministers and President for approval to proceed with conclusion of negotiations. In addition, ATAR held three seminars targeting government officials and other stakeholders to increase understanding of WTO and Afghanistan's ongoing responsibilities after the country becomes a member of WTO.

Constraints

Afghanistan was well positioned to hold its fifth Working Party meeting, but the date of the meeting is pending the decision of the new Afghan Government.

Component 2: Facilitate Enhanced Access to Regional Markets

Summary of key achievements

ATAR continued support for Afghanistan and its Central and South Asian neighbors toward greater trade and transit facilitation. In a significant step toward finalizing the proposed Pakistan Afghanistan Tajikistan Transit and Trade Agreement (PATTTA), ATAR facilitated trilateral discussions between Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Tajikistan in Dushanbe on April 9-10. ATAR also facilitated the re-activation of the process of ratification of the Cross-Border Transport Agreement-Corridor 5 (CBTA) in the Kyrgyz Republic; the Kyrgyz Ministry of Transport launched the process of inter-ministerial approval prior to submission for adoption by the Cabinet of Ministers.

ATAR continued to build capacity toward promoting and guiding implementation of trade facilitation measures in the region. In Uzbekistan, marking the first event of any kind held by USAID directly with Uzbek customs for more than a decade, ATAR delivered training for 21 officers of Uzbekistan's Customs Committee. ATAR also made significant technical contributions in the areas of trade facilitation and

border management to the United States-Central Asia Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) working group meetings, attended by officials from Afghanistan and the Central Asian Republics. In addition, ATAR led discussions during a GIZ-sponsored regional workshop on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) in the Kyrgyz Republic that included officials from Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

ATAR assisted the Export Promotion Agency of Afghanistan (EPAA) in increasing worldwide awareness of Afghanistan's export potential and supporting and educating Afghan exporters. ATAR worked with EPAA on the organization of the Afghan pavilion at the world-renowned Expo 2015, assisted EPAA in signing a memorandum of understanding with two Afghan banks to provide exporters with better access to credit, and supported EPAA and the Ministry of Commerce and Industries (MOCI) in organizing a seminar on promoting Afghan exports to South Asia for more than 80 traders and government officials.

Constraints

The conflict between the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan regarding the Karamyk border crossing point impeded ATAR's work on customs cooperation. In addition, the Turkmen and Uzbek governments are only open for very limited activities with very lengthy bureaucratic procedures.

Component 3: Improved Customs Administration

Summary of key achievements

In a major step toward facilitating trade, the Afghanistan Customs Department (ACD) and Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) launched the pilot phase of the electronic payment (E-Pay) of customs duties, which will allow those importing goods to pay customs taxes at any commercial bank in Afghanistan. The pilot phase is concentrating on the Kabul Inland Clearance Depot (ICD) and Hamid Karzai International Airport (HKIA). Major communication companies such as Etisalat, MTN, AWCC, and Roshan now use E-Pay to pay their customs duties. ATAR worked closely with DAB and ACD since the start of the project to reach an agreement on E-Pay and implement the system.

ATAR continued to support the development of a Post Clearance Audit (PCA) Department, which would align ACD with international best practices and help improve trader compliance. ATAR submitted to ACD an assessment of its PCA function as well as a PCA implementation action plan. With ATAR support, a PCA working group began meeting. In an effort to strengthen ACD's risk management capability, ATAR also supported the development of a risk management working group. The working group met regularly and agreed on important changes to risk management in Jalalabad that will help to facilitate trade.

Constraints and critical issues

Security concerns regarding ACD prevented ATAR's expatriate staff from embedding at the site. The staff conducted short visits and meetings at ACD where possible and relied as necessary on local ATAR staff who continued to work at ACD with intermittent security restrictions.

C. COMPONENT 1: TRADE POLICY LIBERALIZATION

1. Support WTO Accession Process

ATAR worked with the new administration to update newly appointed officials on Afghanistan's progress toward WTO accession and the benefits of membership.

In the first half of June, ATAR met with the newly appointed Minister of Commerce and Industries, the Deputy Minister of Industry, the Director General of International Trade, the Director of Policy and Donor Coordination, and the Advisor to the Minister. ATAR explained the WTO and discussed requirements for Afghanistan's accession and the process of accession, including domestic preparation and the involvement of stakeholders. ATAR then detailed Afghanistan's market access commitments and remaining steps to complete accession. ATAR also discussed the benefits of WTO accession, particularly on regional relations, as well as the challenges; discussed WTO membership in the context of other regional agreements; and explained the advantages of proceeding with accession and the disadvantages of further delays.

ATAR and the Director General of International Trade, with whom ATAR has worked with for the past year and a half, provided clarifications to many misperceptions and answered many questions raised by the Minister and the Deputy Minister in great detail. The Minister wanted to be fully prepared before presenting WTO to the Council of Ministers and President for approval to proceed with conclusion of negotiations.

In the second half of June, the Minister of Commerce and Industries called on ATAR to brief him about the recent progress made on WTO-related legislative documents. ATAR explained the WTO-related legislation as well the regulations and procedures that need to be approved in support of the legislation. ATAR asked the Minister encourage MOJ to focus on WTO-related legislation and to possibly work on the WTO-related legislation as a package required by WTO. The Minister expressed his appreciation of ATAR's efforts and said he will give his full support to finalize WTO-related legislation. He was particularly pleased that ATAR has been supporting various ministries in developing regulations and building capacity for implementing WTO-related laws.

AFGHANISTAN'S WTO PROGRESS

Afghanistan is in its final stages of WTO accession.

In early 2014, Afghanistan completed its bilateral market access negotiations, which represent around 60 percent of the WTO accession process.

By end 2014, Afghanistan's Working Party proceedings, which represent around 40 percent of the accession process, were 90 percent complete.

Remaining work relates to adoption of WTO-related legislation and resolution of certain policy issues.

Afghanistan's fifth, and possibly final, Working Party meeting had been scheduled for November 2013 and for April 2014 with the concurrence of WTO Working Party members, but the meeting was cancelled both times due to delays in approval of the travel of the Afghan delegation.

The re-scheduling of Afghanistan's fifth Working Party meeting is now pending the decision of the new Afghan government.

2. Support Legislative Reforms for WTO Conformity

The Afghan government must reform and amend a wide array of legislation to conform to WTO rules and Afghanistan's commitments. This lengthy, complex process is presented in simplified form in the chart.² These diverse laws cover every aspect of a modern, vibrant trading regime – including customs reform, trade facilitation, intellectual property rights, food safety, and standardization.

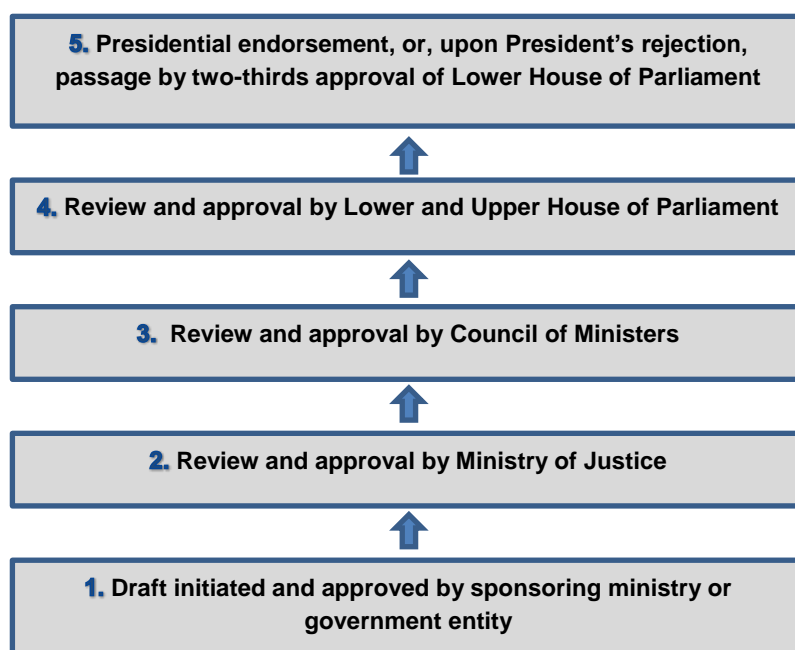
Throughout the quarter, ATAR continued to assist at every stage of the legislative process from line ministry to Parliament.

The following table provides the status of WTO-related legislative items as of the end of June. ATAR's active areas of support for the quarter are highlighted in light blue, and laws that have progressed in status during the reporting period are bolded.

Among the highlights of the quarter:

- The Upper House of Parliament approved the draft Law on Geographical Indications in April.
- MOJ agreed in April, as per the advice of ATAR, to include the draft Law on Topography of Integrated Circuits in its legislative action plan for 1394.
- President Ghani endorsed the amendments to the Law on Trademarks, and the amended law entered into force in Afghanistan in May.
- The Upper House approved the draft Law on Plant Protection and Quarantine and will submit it to the President for signature.
- The draft amendments to the Law on Patents proceeded from MOJ to the Council of Ministers in May.
- The draft Law on Industrial Designs proceeded from MOJ to the Council of Ministers in June.

AFGHANISTAN'S LEGISLATIVE PROCESS



² This chart is a greatly simplified illustration of the intricate and lengthy process of drafting and passing a law. At certain stages, relevant government bodies and private-sector representatives are invited multiple times to offer input on the draft law, or the draft law is circulated to various committees or departments within the sponsoring ministry or MOJ for review and changes. The draft law may be rejected at any stage and returned to the preceding stage for revisions.

AFGHANISTAN'S LEGISLATIVE ACTION PLAN FOR WTO ACCESSION					
No.	Legislation	Responsible Government Authority/ ATAR Employee	Status	Stage: 1. Sponsoring Ministry ³ 2. Ministry of Justice 3. Council of Ministers ⁴ 4. Parliament 5. President 6. Entry into Force	Laws/Regulations Included in MOJ Agenda ⁵
1	Amendments to the 2005 Customs Law	Afghanistan Customs Department (ACD) Wali Faqirzaad Brian O'Shea	MOJ submitted the draft to the Legislative Committee of the Council of Ministers in March 2014. The draft is under review.	Council of Ministers	Yes
2	Procedure on Customs Valuation (including interpretative notes and software and interest charge valuation)	ACD Wali Faqirzaad Brian O'Shea	The Minister of Finance is to adopt the procedure after the draft customs law is adopted.	Sponsoring Ministry	N/A
3	Procedure on Advance Ruling on Binding Decisions (covering advance origin rulings)	ACD Wali Faqirzaad Brian O'Shea	In April 2015, ATAR provided ACD's Director General and ACD's Tariff and Legal Department with additional clarification on the procedure and its significance to further the legislative process.	Sponsoring Ministry	N/A
4	Law on Standards and Technical Regulations	Afghanistan National Standards Authority (ANSA) Sayed Hashimi Farhat Farhat	In early April, ATAR reviewed a revised law submitted by ANSA. ATAR identified a number of WTO inconsistencies and shared comments with ANSA. On June 7, 2015, ATAR met with ANSA and received the agreement of ANSA on three outstanding issues. ATAR communicated with ANSA through email and is awaiting confirmation from ANSA.	Sponsoring Ministry	No ⁶
5	Law on Plant Protection and Quarantine	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and	On May 12 and May 24, the National Economic Commission of the Lower House held sessions to discuss questions on article 10 of the draft law	Parliament	Yes

³ Procedures remain at the level of sponsoring ministry for adoption by the Minister and do not proceed further.

⁴ Regulations go to the Council of Ministers and do not proceed further.

⁵ Procedures and amendments not exceeding 50 percent of original legislation do not need to be on the MOJ agenda.

⁶ Although not on 1393 or 1394 agenda, the MOJ has nonetheless agreed to consider the draft law on standards and technical regulations.

		Livestock (MAIL) Siyar Sahar Luis Flores	<p>regarding MAIL's issuance of permits and the fee charged. Upon MOCI's request, ATAR provided clarifications. Participants accepted that MAIL can grant permits based on article 10 with a reasonable fixed fee per imported plant or plant-related shipment. A paragraph was added to article 10 to indicate that the general export and import license shall be issued by MOCI and the import permit for plant-related shipments shall be issued by MAIL.</p> <p>In June, the Upper House approved the draft law and will submit it to the President for signature.</p>		
6	Law on Animal Health and Veterinary Public Health	MAIL Sayed Hashimi John Woodford	In the prior quarter, ATAR assisted MOJ's Education, Culture, and Health Department in conducting several meetings on the draft law. Once the technical review is finalized, the law will proceed to MOJ's Executive Committee.	Ministry of Justice	Yes
7	Law on Food Safety	Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) Sayed Hashimi Gary Stefan	<p>During the second half of May 2015, MOJ's Executive Committee had two sessions on the food safety law. The committee had comments and made amendments to the draft. ATAR provided counterproposals to MOJ comments and answered questions.</p> <p>During June 2015, ATAR continued to work closely with MOJ on the law. A few issues still require consensus.</p>	Ministry of Justice	Yes
8	Procedure on Customs Control of Intellectual Property Rights (Intellectual Property Border Enforcement)	ACD Wali Faqirzaad Polly Maier	The Minister of Finance adopted this procedure on April 12, 2014.	Sponsoring Ministry	N/A
9	Amendments to the Law on Supporting the Rights of Inventors and Discoverers of 31 April 2009 (Patents Law)	Ministry of Commerce and Industries (MOCI) Wali Faqirzaad Polly Maier	On May 20, 2015, MOJ submitted the patents law to the Legislative Committee of the Council of Ministers for its review. On June 27, 2015, the Legislative Committee of the Council of Ministers held its first session on the law. The Adviser of the Second Vice-President and other participants had additions and comments, which are being reviewed by ATAR.	Council of Ministers	Yes

10	Amendments to the Law on Trademarks of 1 September 2009	MOCI Wali Faqirzaad Polly Maier	On Feb. 10, 2015, the President endorsed the law. On May 20, 2015, the trademarks law was adopted.	Entry into Force	Yes
11	Amendments to the Law on Supporting the Right of Authors, Composers, Artists, and Researchers of 26 July 2008 (Copyrights Law)	Ministry of Information and Culture (MOIC) Siyar Sahar Polly Maier	<p>The Legislative Committee of the Council of Ministers approved the draft, instructing MOJ to check certain terms. The Afghanistan Development and Peace Research Organization proposed changes. In January 2015, MOJ asked ATAR to check if the amendments were WTO consistent. ATAR found some violate WTO.</p> <p>In June, ATAR finalized the draft with the organization. MOJ and ATAR are reviewing the draft to ensure the changes are acceptable.</p>	Council of Ministers	Yes
12	Law on Geographical Indications	MOCI Wali Faqirzaad Polly Maier	<p>The Upper House of Parliament approved the law on April 7, 2015. On May 23, the Upper House and Lower House held a joint meeting to finalize the name of the law. There were reports that some changes occurred on the name of the law and its contents.</p> <p>On June 6, 2015, the law was approved by a joint committee of the Lower and Upper House of Parliament and submitted to the Office of State for Parliamentary Affairs (OSPA).</p> <p>On June 16, 2015, OSPA held a session in which there was discussion on the name of the law as well as articles 8, 12 and 14. ATAR has no further access to that information, due to the confidentiality. The law is with the President for endorsement.</p>	President	Yes
13	Law on Industrial Designs	MOCI Wali Faqirzaad Polly Maier	On May 2, 2015, MOJ's Deputy Minister asked ATAR to provide a clearer definition for textile goods. On May 6, 2015, ATAR assisted MOJ with a revised definition consistent with WTO. On June 7, 2015, the draft law was submitted to the Legislative Committee of the Council of Ministers.	Council of Ministers	Yes

14	Draft amendments to the Commercial Code	MOCI Wali Faqirzaad Polly Maier	On May 27, 2015, MOJ sent the draft amendments to the Supreme Court of Afghanistan for review. On June 13, 2015, the Supreme Court submitted the amendments to MOJ with comments and modifications.	Ministry of Justice	Yes
15	Law on Trade Secrets (undisclosed information)	MOCI Siyar Sahar Polly Maier	<p>During May, ATAR met with MOJ's Commercial and Private Sector Department and explained the draft law and answered questions. MOJ accepted the draft with some changes, which ATAR reviewed to ensure consistency with WTO requirements.</p> <p>During the second half of June, MOJ's Executive Committee finalized the draft. MOJ's Technical Deputy Minister then reviewed the draft and proposed a board to be established in law. This proposal violated WTO. ATAR explained the situation, and MOJ agreed.</p> <p>At the end of June, MOJ invited ministries for a discussion. The participants agreed to the draft, but the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) proposed to add in the law and the title the term "industry" to cover industry as well as trade. ATAR reviewed the proposal upon MOJ's request to ensure it did not violate WTO requirements.</p>	Ministry of Justice	Yes
16	Law on Topography of Integrated Circuits	MOCI Wali Faqirzad Polly Maier	On April 3, 2015, ATAR succeeded in including the law in MOJ's legislative action plan for the Afghan year 1394. During April 2015, the Council of Ministers approved the plan, and the law is scheduled for review in the fourth quarter.	Ministry of Justice	No
17	Law on Consumer Protection (provisions on Unfair Competition)	MOCI Sayed Agha Hashimi Polly Maier	MOJ's Executive Committee reviewed the law in the prior quarter. ATAR provided technical assistance to MOJ during review. The law is now with the Minister of Justice for his review.	Ministry of Justice	Yes
18	Law on Plant Variety Protection	MAIL Siyar Sahar William Lesser	ATAR met with the Deputy Minister to discuss the pre-assessment of plant variety protection. ATAR collected data for the pre-assessment and met with MAIL and the private sector to assess Afghan-specific benefits of plant variety protection. In November 2014, ATAR conducted a workshop at MAIL to improve understanding of the law	Sponsoring Ministry	Yes

			and discuss the impact assessment.		
19	Amendments to the Law on Publication and Enforcement of Legislation of 1998	MOCI/MOJ Wali Faqirzaad	In April, MOJ's Executive Committee completed its review of the law. On May 3, 2015, the amendments were submitted to the MOJ Deputy Minister for his review. On June 23, 2015, the amendments on the publication law were submitted to the Legislative Committee of the Council of Ministers.	Council of Ministers	Yes
20	Amendments to the Regulation on Drafting Procedure and Processing of Legal Acts	MOCI/MOJ Siyar Sahar	The draft is at MOJ under review by the relevant MOJ legislative department.	Ministry of Justice	N/A
21	Law on Foreign Trade in Goods	MOCI Sayed Hashimi	In April 2015, ATAR analyzed questions raised by MOJ's Executive Committee and prepared clarifications. In June 2015, ATAR had two sessions with MOJ.	Ministry of Justice	Yes
22	Procedure on Import and Export Licensing	MOCI Sayed Hashimi	The draft procedure is finalized and will be adopted once the law on foreign trade is adopted.	Sponsoring Ministry	N/A
23	Procedure on Customs Storage Fees	ACD Wali Faqirzaad Farhat Farhat	The draft is at ACD for final review and is awaiting signature.	Sponsoring Ministry	N/A
24	Regulations of production and importation of medicines and medical equipment of 24 February 2007 (concerning fees)	MOPH Siyar Sahar Farhat Farhat	On May 11, ATAR met the Director of Avicina Pharmaceutical Institute and explained that discriminatory fees do not protect domestic investments and are inconsistent with WTO.	Sponsoring Ministry	N/A
25	Income Tax Law (concerning unequal treatment of import tax)	Ministry of Finance (MOF) Wali Faqirzad Farhat Farhat	ATAR met with the Afghan Revenue Department (ARD) in April 2015 to discuss proposed WTO-related changes to this law.	Sponsoring Ministry	N/A
26	Law on Safeguards Measures for Domestic Protection	MOCI Sayed Hashimi	During April and May, ATAR assisted MOJ in reviewing the draft law.	Ministry of Justice	Yes
Legislative items not prepared by ATAR					
27	Value Added Tax	MOF	The law has been approved by the Upper House and signed by the President. It is awaiting publication in the official gazette.	President	Yes
28	Law on Minerals	Ministry of Mines	President Karzai endorsed the law in August 2014. The law is published in the official gazette.	Entry into Force	Yes

3. Support Implementation of WTO Laws and Commitments

Intellectual Property Rights

Trademarks

In support of implementation of the Law on Trademarks, ATAR and MOCI's Afghanistan Central Business Registry-Intellectual Property (ACBR-IP) held awareness seminars for academia and customs officials.



ATAR delivered seminars on trademarks to members of academia.

On May 19 and May 26, ATAR and ACBR-IP delivered two awareness seminars on trademarks to a total of 32 members of academia in Kabul. On May 20, ATAR and ACBR-IP delivered an awareness seminar on trademarks to seven ACD staff.

Each awareness training covered the meaning of intellectual property, function, and types of trademarks. This program helped participants

understand the importance of trademarks in terms of economic development and consumer protection.

ATAR also provided on-the-job training for staff of ACBR-IP in performing trademark functions, including examination, classification, and registration. In addition, ATAR prepared a document on automated trademark registry, including structure and functions of a database, and an operational manual for ACBR-IP on the examination, classification, and registration of trademarks to assist with proper administration of the trademark system.

Patents

In support of implementation of the Law on Patents, ATAR held training for ACBR-IP and for members of the private sector. On April 25, ATAR delivered training on patents examination and registration to 20 ACBR-IP staff members, six females and 14 males. On May 3 and May 4, ATAR delivered two awareness seminars on patents to 30 members of the private sector. Each seminar covered an introduction to patents, patentable subject matter, non-patentable subject matter, criteria for patentability, and exceptions to patent rights.



ATAR delivered training on patent examination and registration to MOCI employees.

ATAR also provided on-the-job training on patents examination and registration for ACBR-IP staff. In addition, ATAR submitted to ACBR-IP a document on manual and electronic registration of patents and delivered awareness materials on patents to MOCI.

Copyrights

In support of the Law on Copyrights, ATAR met with MOIC, ACD, the Ministry of Interior, and Attorney General's Office in May regarding the coordination procedure for copyright law enforcement. The authorities accepted the coordination procedure, which was drafted by ATAR and outlines the duty of each relevant agency in enforcing the Law on Copyrights. They agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in support of the procedure. ATAR prepared the draft MOU and shared it with MOIC for finalization and distribution to the agencies.

ATAR assisted MOIC in June in preparing a form for registering copyrighted works. ATAR reviewed previously prepared forms and researched the forms of Pakistan and India. ATAR prepared a draft form for registering literary works in Afghanistan and submitted it to MOIC. ATAR will draft a similar form for registering musical works. Once these forms are finalized, MOIC will start the optional registration of copyrighted works for the first time.

Geographical indications

In support of implementation of the Law on Geographical Indications, ATAR developed public awareness materials and assisted the ACBR-IP office in developing a document on the organization of the registrar

of geographical indications. ATAR also assisted ACBR-IP in understanding and advancing the development of regulations for the law and in advancing the development of rules governing the registrar.

International intellectual property conventions

In April, ATAR supported the Afghan government in its efforts to join international intellectual property conventions. ATAR assisted MOCI in taking domestic measures for enabling membership and preparing application to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, the Madrid Protocol relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks, and the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks. ATAR submitted Dari and English versions of the conventions, introductory notes, and accession instruments to MOCI in April.

In May, MOCI's Deputy Minister assigned four General Directorates (International Trade, Private Sector, Legal, and Plan and Policy) to review the submitted documents. The Directorates first reviewed the Paris Convention and will next review the Singapore Treaty.

Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Animal health

ATAR assisted MAIL's Animal Health Directorate in conducting seven working groups to review procedures in support of the Law on Animal Health. Participants included staff from MAIL's Animal Health Directorate, MOCI, and government border inspectors. Participants reviewed the procedures and made suggestions for improvement.

Procedures Reviewed in Support of the Veterinary Control of Import and Export Regulation	Procedures Reviewed in Support of the Animal Health Regulation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarantine, seizure, destruction and disposal of a consignment of live animal(s), a commodity or a controlled article • Disinfection, disinfestations, destruction and disposal of live animal(s), commodities and controlled articles at designated ports of entry or within the territory of Afghanistan • Sanitary measures for the importation of fresh, frozen or partially processed poultry meat. • Sanitary measures for the importation into and transit through the territory of Afghanistan, of live cattle and buffalo • Sanitary measures for the importation into and transit through the territory of Afghanistan of live sheep and goats • Sanitary measures for the importation and transit of horses, donkeys and mules • Application for the issuance of an international veterinary certificate for the export of and animal commodity or controlled article 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of controlled animal diseases and diseases which shall be subject to control under an animal disease control scheme • Declaration of notifiable animal diseases in the territory of Afghanistan • Publication of changes to existing and proposed new draft procedures for the implementation of the animal health regulations • Delegation of powers and authority to perform functions by the chief veterinary officer to a provincial veterinary officer of the veterinary authority

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application for the issuance of an international veterinary certificate for the export of and animal commodity or controlled article | |
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Food safety

ATAR assisted MOPH in conducting five working groups to review procedures in support of the Law on Food Safety. Participants included staff from MOPH, MOCI, EPAA, the National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA), ANSA, Kabul University, and the private sector.

Procedures Reviewed in Support of the Food Safety Law

- Procedure for food hygiene practices for manufacturing, packing or holding
- Procedure on food additives permitted for direct addition to food for human consumption

In April, ATAR shared a draft syllabus for the course called “Introduction to Food Safety” with Kabul University and National Agricultural Education College to get their feedback. The course would help provide Afghanistan with specialists to implement the Law on Food Safety under WTO.

Phytosanitary

ATAR assisted MAIL in conducting seven working groups to finalize procedures that will support implementation of the Law on Plant Protection and Quarantine. Participants in the working groups included staff from MAIL’s Plant Protection and Quarantine Department (PPQD), ACCI, MOCI, Kabul University, and the private sector.

Procedures Review in Support of the Plant Protection and Quarantine Regulation

- General conditions for the importation of plants, plant products and related articles
- Procedures for importing insects/ticks (Ixodidae), nematodes/ microscopic living organisms’ cultures including algae/ biological control factors
- Creation/certification of post-entry quarantine sites

In the second half of April, ATAR shared a draft syllabus for the course called “Afghanistan Agriculture Import/Export Markets and Plant Health Standards” with Kabul University and PPQD to solicit their feedback. The course will help to provide Afghanistan with the specialists needed to implement sanitary and phytosanitary laws such as the Law on Plant Protection and Quarantine.

In the first half of May, ATAR conducted five days of training for 27 members of MAIL’s PPQD on conducting Pest Risk Assessments (PRAs) that will help support implementation of the Plant Protection and Quarantine Law. ATAR provide training that covered different scenarios from Canada, Australia, the United States, Europe, and Latin America. Participants formed three groups following the training, and each group is expected to conduct one PRA on an important commodity for Afghanistan so they can apply their training. ATAR will continue coaching the process long-distance by facilitating access to journal articles, pest databases, and supporting the writing process. The initial PRAs are expected to be complete by the end of September 2015. ATAR will then support a second round of PRAs.

ATAR also drafted an institutional proposal that was accepted by the MAIL PPQD for establishing three PRA units. The units will help to support implementation of the Law on Plant Protection and Quarantine.

4. Assist in Building Capacity and Sustainability of the WTO Unit for Post-Accession

ATAR held three seminars to increase understanding of WTO and ongoing responsibilities after Afghanistan becomes a member of WTO.

On April 26, ATAR conducted a seminar on WTO post-accession for MOCI's WTO Unit and Regional Trade Agreements Departments. Thirty government officials, including five women, from MOCI and other relevant ministries attended the presentation. During the seminar, ATAR and MOCI also delivered presentations on the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) agreement and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS).

On May 9 and May 11, ATAR conducted seminars on WTO post-accession for MOCI's WTO Unit and other stakeholders. Thirty-one government officials, including seven women, from MOCI and other relevant ministries attended the May 9 presentation, and more than 30 people, including five women, attended the second on May 11.



ATAR conducted seminars on WTO post-accession for MOCI and other stakeholders.

The series is a coordinated technical transfer effort in conjunction with a paper called “WTO Unit – Post-Accession Structure for Afghanistan’s Ongoing Effective WTO Membership and Participation” that has been submitted for discussion to MOCI top management.

5. Assist in Building Analytical Capacity

Trade Policy Analysis Unit

Computer software training

On April 27, ATAR completed 80 hours of training on the “Application of Computer Software for Trade Statistics and Analysis” for trade specialists from the Central Statistics Organization (CSO), MOCI, and EPAA.

The training was a part of ATAR’s support for implementation of a memorandum of understanding between CSO, ACD, and EPAA to reduce the discrepancy of reporting trade figures by different agencies.

Sensitive goods analysis

In April and May, ATAR assisted MOCI’s Trade Policy Analysis Unit (TPAU) in trade analysis of sensitive goods of Afghanistan and Pakistan under the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) agreement based on economic models including the latest data of ACD and CSO on Afghan exports and imports. ATAR worked with TPAU to assist in preparing a list of goods that are of potential interest to Afghan exporters, and Afghanistan will request those items be removed the sensitive lists of Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Sri-Lanka.

ATAR also assisted the TPAU in preparation of its five-year (2010-2015) trade policy review. ATAR and TPAU prepared two drafts: one focused on tariff, import/export/transit data, and economic impact; and 2) the other describing the impact of trade agreements and profiles of Afghanistan’s main trade partners.

What is SAFTA?

The South Asia Free Trade Area (SAFTA) is a regional free trade agreement between Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. These countries form the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Afghanistan ratified SAFTA on Jan. 7, 2011, and the agreement came into effect on Aug. 7, 2011. The agreement provided Afghan producers with greater and more consistent access to SAFTA countries’ markets and provided consumers with greater access to affordable, imported products.

In a sign of SAFTA’s success, exports of Afghanistan increased more than 40 percent in the first quarter of 2015 compared to the same period of 2014. The value of exports to SAFTA countries almost doubled, reaching almost 70 percent of Afghanistan’s total exports. In the first quarter of 2015, imports of Afghanistan increased about 25 percent compared to the same period of 2014. Pakistan, India, and China are the top three importers of Afghan goods.

Component 1: Planned Activities

- Provide support, as requested, for Afghanistan's participation in its fifth Working Party meeting
- Continue support to advance WTO-related draft laws to meet WTO requirements
- Continue supporting development of regulations and procedures related to sanitary and phytosanitary laws at MAIL and MOPH
- Continue support for applying to intellectual property conventions
- Build capacity of ACD on advance rulings to facilitate establishment of Advance Rulings Unit.
- Support development of syllabus and training materials for ANSA Training and Information Center
- Assist in development of draft Law on Legal Units of Measurement and Law on Metrology
- Conduct needs assessment for National Metrology Institute
- Conduct an assessment of food laboratory at MOPH
- Develop a WTO awareness plan
- Build capacity of MOCI WTO Unit to lead WTO awareness building and educate stakeholders in private sector and public sector on WTO and Afghanistan's WTO commitments
- Support TPAU in building a partial equilibrium model to assess impact of WTO accession
- Assist MOCI TPAU in preparing half-year review on tariff and trade policy.
- Provide training to CSO on analyzing export data from ACD and EPAA

D. COMPONENT 2: FACILITATE ENHANCED ACCESS TO REGIONAL MARKETS

1. Afghanistan

Trade Facilitation Support – Central Asian Republics

PATTTA

ATAR facilitated the organization and logistics of an Afghan delegation's trip to Dushanbe on April 9-10 for consultations with Pakistani and Tajik counterparts regarding the proposed PATTTA. ATAR also supported MOCI in preparing Afghanistan's negotiating team for the PATTTA discussions.

The next round of meetings with an eye to successfully concluding discussions on outstanding key issues is expected to take place in August 2015.

What is PATTTA?

PATTTA would extend the Afghanistan Pakistan Transit and Trade Agreement (APTTA) to Tajikistan, providing Pakistan and Afghanistan with access to Central Asian countries and providing Tajikistan with access to Pakistan's seaports by way of Afghanistan. PATTTA would also improve upon APTTA by better facilitating trade and reducing costs.



ATAR supported trilateral discussions in Dushanbe on the proposed PATTTA.

Trade Facilitation Support – South Asia

SAARC/SAFTA

ATAR began assisting MOCI in preparing for the Ninth Meeting of the SAARC Ministerial Council and the Tenth Meeting of the SAFTA Committee of Experts in Kabul in early August.⁷ ATAR held several meetings with MOCI to discuss logistical issues and communication materials for these events. President Ghani is likely to attend the SAARC ministerial meeting. This is the first time SAARC will hold its ministerial conference in Afghanistan.

In tandem, ATAR continued to provide analytical support to MOCI's TPAU on issues related to SAFTA sensitive lists as outlined in the "TPAU/Sensitive Goods Analysis" section of Component 1.

Afghanistan-Pakistan trade and transit trade facilitation

In April, ATAR provided input for talking points on trade and transit facilitation between Afghanistan and Pakistan and the status of implementation updates for MOCI's Deputy Minister and Director General to use during discussion with Pakistani counterparts. ATAR included a white paper called "Ongoing Infrastructure and Procedural Issues at Wagah Land Crossing" prepared in coordination with USAID's Commercial Horticultural Agricultural Program (CHAMP). ATAR also provided talking points and data for the Director General's closing comments for the Made in Pakistan Exhibition and Conference that occurred in April in Kabul.

⁷ The meetings have since been rescheduled for early September 2015.

ATAR continued its work to support three trade areas highlighted in a meeting between the Afghan and Pakistani Ministers of Finance in November 2015: a One Stop Border Post at crossing points between Afghanistan and Pakistan, collection of customs duties and taxes by ACD at Pakistani ports, and transshipping of Afghan transit trade in Peshawar.

On May 24, ATAR held a presentation at ACD to review the One Stop Border Post model developed with ATAR support. The One Stop Border Post model would lay the groundwork for establishment and implementation of joint border customs controls at the border crossing points between Afghanistan and Pakistan. ACD gave its consent on the proposed model but suggested obtaining approval from the Ministry of Finance before discussing the modality with other stakeholders.

ATAR also completed a draft modality on establishing Afghan customs offices at Pakistani seaports and neared completed for a modality for trans-shipping in Peshawar. In addition, ATAR assisted in reviewing the Preferential Trade Agreement between Afghanistan and Pakistan as well as the Mutual Assistance Agreement on Customs Matters between both countries.

Afghanistan-India trade and transit trade facilitation

In April, per the request of MOCI, ATAR examined the draft Motor Vehicles Agreement for the Regulation of Passenger, Personal and Cargo Vehicular Traffic between Afghanistan and India.

ATAR determined the agreement does not seem to have any provisions that cannot be implemented and requires the development of new procedures to meet various formalities for traffic movements. The routes, and recreational, entry, and clearance points need to be elaborated. On April 28, President Ghani and the Prime Minister of India discussed the need to proceed with the agreement.

Trade/Business Promotion

EPAA

ATAR supported EPAA in initiating development of a national export strategy for Afghanistan through meetings with stakeholders. ATAR also worked closely with EPAA on developing product-specific export promotion, marketing, and branding strategies for Pakistan. ATAR expects the initial draft will be completed and delivered to EPAA by August. ATAR had prepared similar strategies for India and submitted them to EPAA in the prior quarter.

Expo Milano 2015

ATAR assisted EPAA in organizing the Afghan pavilion at Expo Milano, which is being held in Milan, Italy, from May 1 to Oct. 31. ATAR helped EPAA to develop a video to showcase Afghan food and culture, a booklet highlighting Afghanistan's export potential, a booklet of traditional Afghan recipes, and posters promoting Afghanistan. ATAR also supported EPAA in the start-up of the pavilion by meeting with partners in Milan; assisted in the organization of the pavilion before the opening date and arrival of MOCI's Deputy Minister and his delegation; welcomed the Afghan delegation upon their arrival to Milan; and assisted in planning for the inauguration of the pavilion, which occurred May 3.



A visitor to the Afghan Pavilion looked at a display of Afghan saffron (left). Deputy Minister Shinwari cut the ribbon for the inauguration of the pavilion (right).

Access to finance

On April 5, ATAR assisted EPAA in signing an MOU with Afghan Rural Finance Co. (ARFC) and

Afghanistan International Bank (AIB) to provide exporters with better access to credit. Under the MOU, EPAA will recommend exporters to these financial institutions for export credit on easier terms. USAID's Financial Access for Investing in the Development of Afghanistan (FAIDA) project will facilitate these loans.



EPAA former Chief Executive Officer Najlla Habibyar (right) signed an export finance agreement with ARFC (left).

On April 21, ATAR assisted EPAA in organizing training on trade finance for 35 exporters. The objective was to educate exporters on trade finance products offered by various banks in Afghanistan. ARFC and AIB made presentations and

explained how Afghan exporters can take advantage of short-term credit to finance export activities.

Seminar on promoting Afghan exports to South Asia

On May 12, ATAR assisted EPAA and MOCI in organizing a seminar called “Promoting Afghan Exports to South Asia: Opportunities and Challenges” for more than 80 traders and government officials.

The Minister of Commerce and Industries, Indian Ambassador, and Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock were a few of the officials who opened the seminar. MOCI’s Director General of International Trade chaired the sessions. He and the First Secretary of Commerce of the Indian Embassy joined representatives from USAID projects such as ATAR, CHAMP, FAIDA, the Assistance in Building Afghanistan by Developing Enterprises (ABADE) project, and the Regional Agricultural Development Program-South (RADP-South) in responding to questions raised by exporters during the panel discussion.



Minister of Commerce and Industries Humayoon Rasaw opened the seminar on promoting Afghan exports to South Asia.

Marble sector

ATAR worked with the Afghanistan Marble Association and Afghanistan Marble Center for Excellence to move Afghan marble producers up the value chain. During April, ATAR assisted a marble processor to obtain a crane and other equipment from India for cutting and polishing; this was partly financed by USAID’s ABADE project under a public-private partnership mechanism.

TIR

On May 19-20, ATAR held a Transports Internationaux Routiers (TIR) awareness workshop for transport operators at ACCI. There were 21 participants in the first day, and 18 participants on the second day. Topics covered included the TIR system, benefits to transport operators, and the TIR carnet application procedure. ATAR also provided an overview of transit routes, border crossing points, and information on how TIR can simplify international shipments to Central Asia.

At ATAR's suggestion, participants agreed to meet regularly after the workshop to review and recommend action plans to encourage a wider adoption of TIR. The participants will form a working group committee including representatives from ACCI, ACD, Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation (MOTCA), Association of Afghan Freight Forwarding Companies (AAFFCO), and transport operators approved for the TIR system. ACCI will be the secretariat, and the first meeting is planned in August. The working group committee will provide recommendations to the National TIR Technical Committee for policy formulation.

WHAT IS TIR?

Transports Internationaux Routiers (TIR) is a customs transit system that simplifies the movement of cargo across at least one border. The principles and guidelines for implementing TIR are described in the TIR Convention 1975. In September 2013, TIR was reactivated in Afghanistan after three decades of suspension.

ATAR also began planning with MOTCA, ACCI, and MOCI for a "TIR Week" scheduled for August. The TIR week will start with a TIR roundtable, followed by a TIR national capacity building workshop, and conclude with a transport and trade facilitation committee with a focus on customs.

On June 1-2, ATAR conducted a workshop for RADP-S on the topic of supply chain management. Twenty-three participants attended the first day, and 18 participants attended the second day. The workshop covered supply chain management, agriculture supply chain in Central Asia, global procurement and cold chain management.

2. The Kyrgyz Republic

CBTA

ATAR met with the international relations department of the Kyrgyz Ministry Transport and facilitated the re-activation of the process of ratification of Afghanistan's protocol of accession to the CBTA.

The Kyrgyz Ministry of Transport launched the process of inter-ministerial approval prior to submission of the protocol for adoption by the Cabinet of Ministers. In the latter half of June, the deputy head of the international relations department said that a list of endorsements had been sent to several ministries for signature. Although he would not name them, he indicated several Ministries had responded positively to the list of endorsements.

WHAT IS CBTA?

The Cross Border Transport Agreement (CBTA) between Afghanistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan helps link East Asia with the Middle East and South Asia through Corridor 5. Corridor 5 connects East Asia to the Arabian Sea through Central Asia. The corridor is one of the six transport corridors that traverse the Central Asian Economic Cooperation (CAREC) region. CAREC brings together Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan and promotes regional projects.

Afghanistan signed the accession protocol to join the CBTA in November 2011. However, due to discrepancies in the English and Russian versions of CBTA, the countries agreed to re-sign the protocol.

WTO TFA

The Kyrgyz Ministry of Economy informed ATAR in May of the formation of a working group to oversee implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), based on information given by ATAR in two prior presentations. The working group is composed of trade association members, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, producers, the Ministry of Economy, and border agency personnel. A Deputy Minister of Economy will head the working group, which will be tasked with developing an implementation work plan and providing input into the formation of a National Trade Facilitation Committee. The committee will oversee the implementation recommendations from the working group. ATAR will work with the working group and national committee.

In order to raise awareness of the WTO TFA, ATAR worked with GIZ to hold a WTO TFA roundtable on April 21 in Bishkek for 29 representatives of trading companies, service associations, and donor organizations. ATAR made presentations and led the discussions, while GIZ provided the venue and handled logistics issues.

ATAR also discussed at length with the Kyrgyz Ministry of Economy the importance and procedures for early ratification of the WTO TFA. In the latter half of June, the Ministry of Economy notified ATAR that an official translation of the TFA in the Kyrgyz language is required to begin the processes for government acceptance of the TFA. ATAR identified a company authorized by the government to submit official translations in the Kyrgyz language and agreed to terms with the company. The translation should be completed by the end of July.

Authorized economic operators

In May, ATAR completed a review of the Kyrgyz government resolution that is a regulation of the implementation of the activities of an authorized economic operator (AEO). The review found the designed system has no security features as specified by the World Customs Organization's (WCO) Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Trade (SAFE) program. The WCO would view it as a customs compliance program rather than an AEO program. The WCO states a customs compliance program "could be a first step or stepping stone to a WCO SAFE AEO program."

WHAT IS WTO TFA?

The WTO TFA, signed during the Bali Ministerial Conference in December 2013, brings together improved WCO Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) provisions, a number of improved provisions in existing WTO agreements, and new trade facilitation provisions. This new agreement presents a new framework for promoting regional reforms to facilitate trade, reduce corruption, improve transparency and private sector participation, and strengthen transit rights. The agreement will enter into force when two-thirds of the WTO member countries submit a letter of acceptance to the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee.

WHAT IS AN AEO?

An AEO is defined by the WCO SAFE Framework as a party involved in the international movement of goods, that has been approved by, or on behalf of, a national customs administration as complying with WCO or equivalent supply chain security standards.

Additionally, although it mentions simplified procedures, the designed system does not clearly define the advantages granted to AEO participants. ATAR is preparing recommendations for a model AEO system based on the European Union system.

Customs Consultative Council

In the first half of June, ATAR met with the new first Deputy Chairman of Customs to discuss the resumption of the regular customs consultative council, which promotes public-private dialogue between customs and other border agencies with interested trade members. The Deputy Chairman showed his support of organizing such meetings in both Bishkek and Osh.

ATAR held follow-up meetings to finalize the agenda for the first meeting, which was held in Bishkek on June 18. The first Deputy Chairman of Customs chaired the meeting and led the discussions. Eighteen traders, three customs representatives, the Ministry of Health, USAID, ATAR, and the Ministry of Economy attended the event. The Osh meeting is tentatively scheduled for the second half of July.

3. Tajikistan

PATTTA

ATAR supported the trilateral meeting on April 9-10 in Dushanbe between Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Tajikistan, offering guidance and clarifications to the parties on the proposed PATTTA. ATAR provided a Russian translation of the Afghan counterproposal for extending APTTA to include Tajikistan, which was used as the basis for the discussions. ATAR hosted a final dinner at which the minutes of the second trilateral forum were signed in the presence of the Ambassadors of the United States, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. ATAR supported the Tajik government to finalize the updated draft agreement identifying the provisions agreed upon during the meeting.

Support to the Tajikistan State Customs Service

ATAR continued to support the Tajikistan State Customs Service. In April and May, ATAR completed development and translation of a proposal for dialogue between Tajik customs and private-sector representatives on the requirements to comply with PCA requests. This included a presentation and public notice, a training course, and a concept paper and recommendations. ATAR translated the documents and provided them to the Tajikistan State Customs Service. ATAR is awaiting notification of the customs staff appointed to the PCA division and their feedback to the proposals in preparation of the delivery of the training in September 2015.

ATAR began developing a model concept for the AEO program for consideration by Tajikistan. The program would enable customs to quickly move previously identified low-risk cargo through the ports of entry and border crossing points.

ATAR also began researching anti-corruption measures and strategies in preparation for implementation of anti-corruption measures as stipulated in the CBTA. The measures under analysis include adoption of a voluntary compliance scheme and improvement to online publication of trader-relevant information.

In addition, ATAR developed a proposal to improve an existing regulation and to encourage the re-launch of a program for the issuance of advance rulings. The existing regulation was introduced in 2007, but the recent WTO TFA compliance assessment conducted by ATAR found that Tajik customs is not applying the practice. ATAR continued to conduct comparative analyses of best practices and regional customs laws and regulations with regard to strengthening the advanced rulings facility.

Support to the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade

In April, ATAR participated in the first meeting of the working group on WTO obligations of Tajikistan. The program had as its basis the Tajikistan post WTO-accession plan that was developed by USAID's Regional Economic Cooperation (REC) project in 2014. The plan includes separate activities to address the problems of transport and transit through Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, and the Karamyk border with the Kyrgyz Republic.

In addition, ATAR finalized the Russian translation of the report "Benefits and Challenges of the potential Afghanistan-Pakistan-Tajikistan-India Trade and Transit Agreement" in April and submitted it to the First Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade.

Support to the private sector

In response to a request for capacity building efforts from the Tajikistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI), ATAR developed presentation materials to motivate Tajik exporters to increase exports, to maximize their potential at trade shows, and to negotiate deals. ATAR will present the materials in a private-sector forum convened through the TCCI's Trade Promotion Center and in partnership with UNDP's Aid for Trade program.

TIR seminar

ATAR participated in a regional TIR seminar in May with representatives from customs administrations of Azerbaijan, Turkey, and Tajikistan, and representatives of the Association of International Transport Operators of Tajikistan (ABBAT), which is the Tajik national transport association authorized to issue TIR carnets. The main objective of the seminar was to analyze the status of implementation of the TIR Convention. The four-day seminar culminated in a visit to the Dusti border crossing point with Uzbekistan.

ATAR will continue discussion with ABBAT regarding its proposal to establish a TIR "green lane" window which could provide simplified acceptance, review, and release of documents for trucks coming to the Tajik border under TIR carnet.

In June, ATAR met with the chairman of the Association of the International Road Transport Operators (AIRTO), the national transport association of the Kyrgyz Republic to learn more of its best-practice implementation of the TIR-EPD (Green Lane) model at the border crossing point of Tilek with Kazakhstan. The model was implemented as part of a partnership between Kyrgyz customs, the Kyrgyz Ministry of Transport, AIRTO and the International Road Transport Union. AIRTO processes 22,000 TIR carnets annually. AIRTO confirmed it can and will support training and awareness sessions.

4. Turkmenistan

Export promotion support

At the request of USAID/Ashgabat, ATAR prepared a draft proposal for a four-day training event for promoting Turkmen textile exports. In addition to marketing and sales strategies, the draft agenda covered strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats analysis, value chain re-adjustment, and market and regulatory requirements for exporting to other countries.

In response to interest from the Turkmen Export Promotion Institute on USAID's export promotion support, ATAR provided a note highlighting USAID activities in neighboring countries related to export promotion and suggestions for support for the Turkmen Export Promotion Institute, Institute on Research of Commodity Circulation of Turkmenistan's National Goods, the Institute of Strategic Planning and Economic Development of Turkmenistan, and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Turkmenistan. ATAR is awaiting approval from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the proposed trainings and support.

WTO TFA

ATAR completed its assessment and translation into Russian of Turkmenistan's legal, regulatory, and institutional framework for conformity with the WTO TFA. ATAR submitted the report to USAID Turkmenistan in May.

WTO/WCO customs assessment

ATAR completed the translation of the assessment of the Turkmen customs code with WTO agreements and WCO RKC and shared the Russian version with USAID Turkmenistan. With ATAR support, USAID submitted a cover letter for transmitting the analysis to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and offering the State Turkmen Customs Service help with changes in the Turkmen code to align it with the WCO RKC and WTO customs-related agreements. ATAR is awaiting concurrence from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to launch preparation.

Meeting at the Ministry of Textile Industry of Turkmenistan

ATAR facilitated a meeting with the Chairman of Balkh Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Afghanistan and the Head of the Department of Foreign Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Textile Industry of Turkmenistan. During the meeting, participants discussed the possibility of Turkmen textile factories to supply products to Afghanistan and further cooperation between Afghan businesses and the Ministry of Textile Industry of Turkmenistan.

5. Uzbekistan

Customs risk assessment and management seminar

On May 12-15, ATAR delivered training for 21 officers of Uzbekistan's Customs Committee. This was the first event of any kind held by USAID directly with Uzbek customs for more than a decade. The participants represented a cross-section of customs disciplines including inspectors from land crossings and the airport, currency control, valuation, human resources, the training academy, and the Office of Internal Security.

The program aimed to familiarize Uzbek customs with modern border management concepts including risk management and assessment, advance information, AEOs, supply chain security, information exchange (customs-to-customs and customs-to-business), and compliance measurement.

Participants were divided into three groups on the fourth day and were assigned to develop an AEO program based on risk for Uzbekistan. The three groups completed the task and presented in the afternoon, demonstrating understanding of the concepts and how to apply them for facilitating trade and reducing the cost of doing business in Uzbekistan.

ATAR provided a CD for each participant containing the presentations, RKC (English and Russian), WTO TFA (English and Russian), IRU Green Lanes (English and Russian),⁸ and a list of essential fields for a customs risk management database.

ATAR started preparing additional proposals for training Uzbek customs on PCA and customs valuation. These proposals will be submitted through official letter for consideration by authorities.



ATAR delivered training to 21 Uzbek customs officers.

⁸ With model pilots from Moldova and Serbia-Bulgaria border crossings.

Route study

ATAR revised a terms of reference for a study for assessing alternative routes for linking Tashkent with New Delhi and the Arabian Sea. The study will support promotion of a bilateral agreement on transit and transport between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan.

6. Cross-Cutting

TIFA Working Group meetings

On June 10-12, ATAR participated in the TIFA working group meetings organized by the Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP) in Astana, Kazakhstan, on customs, sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS), and technical barriers to trade (TBT). Participants included officials from customs authorities, ministries, and standardization agencies from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

ATAR delivered two presentations: 1) Customs Perspective: Best Practices in Trade Facilitation and 2) Customs Services Border Cooperation and Communication with SPS and TBT Inspectors. ATAR, in addition, supported CLDP in facilitating working group meetings and provided guidance and clarifications as needed. ATAR shared with participants the WCO manuals on PCA in Russian. The Kyrgyz Veterinary Service was particularly interested in progress in Tajikistan on SPS risk analysis, which was supported by ATAR. ATAR shared materials for a training course on the conduct of qualitative import risk analysis and a presentation on risk management.

ATAR held many meetings at the margin of these working groups with officials from all six countries and provided clarifications and shared best practices on issues including trade facilitation, customs reforms, customs information technology systems, and conformity with international SPS and TBT standards and related WTO agreements.

Fortified wheat flour consultation

On June 15, ATAR participated by video in a stakeholder consultation called “Harnessing Production and Trade of Fortified Food Supplies for Afghanistan and Central Asian Region.” Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) hosted the conference in Islamabad, Pakistan; the conference was attended by about 20 public- and private-sector thought leaders, including millers and wheat and flour traders; this was the first of several stakeholder consultations to be hosted throughout Central and South Asia.

Regional comparative advantage/trade complementarity study

ATAR completed a 275-page study on regional comparative advantage and trade complementarity. ATAR started developing action plans to accompany this report for each of the countries (Afghanistan, India, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) to be shared with country counterparts and stakeholders to maximize trade in Central and South Asia.

TFA Regional Workshop in Issyk-Kul

On June 15-16, GIZ sponsored a regional WTO TFA regional workshop in Issyk-Kul. In preparation for this session, ATAR coordinated daily with GIZ and developed the agenda. ATAR, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) representatives developed presentations for the event. The ATAR WTO expert chaired both days of the workshop. The participants were from the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan. The workshop provided participants with knowledge of the WTO TFA, other possible trade facilitation techniques, information on forming a National Trade Facilitation Committee, and a methodology for developing an implementation work plan.



An ATAR expert spoke with participants in the TFA regional workshop.

Component 2: Looking Forward

- Continue to support the PATTTA process
- Continue development and finalization of modalities for Afghan customs at Karachi; transshipping in Peshawar; and a single border stop at crossing point Afghanistan-Pakistan
- Continue work related to advancing the ratification in Kyrgyz Republic of the CBTA protocol of accession of Afghanistan and facilitate transmission to Tajikistan
- Facilitate the development of a memorandum of understanding on mutual cooperation between a Kyrgyz transport company and its Tajik counterpart as agreed in a protocol signed during the Modern Trade and Transport Workshop
- Support the Tajikistan State Customs Service on the national strategy for integrated border management
- Build capacity of Tajik State Customs on post-clearance audit
- Support implementation of select provisions of trade facilitation in Kyrgyzstan including AEOs
- Develop country-specific action plan based on regional study on comparative advantages and trade complementarity
- Launch trade route mapping study linking Uzbekistan and India and Arabian Sea
- Launch free economic zones assessment
- Continue implementation of aspects related to South Asia strategy
- Continue promoting regional trade and customs initiatives with Central Asia
- Continue support SAFTA implementation

- Support the SAARC Ministerial meeting to be held in Kabul in August 2015
- Continue building EPPA capacity
- Continue supporting EPAA in its participation in Expo Milano 2015
- Provide support for the RECCA meeting to be held in September 2015

E. COMPONENT 3: IMPROVED CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION

The purpose of Component 3 is to enhance the Afghan government's capacity to generate revenue by improving customs procedures to increase transparency, efficiency, and uniformity in the collection of revenue, performance of core functions, and facilitation of trade.

1. Support Regional Integration

See Component 2 on pages 25-26 for further information on regional integration between Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Central Asia.

2. Institutionalize the Border Management Model

ATAR continued to monitor the implementation of the Border Management Model (BMM) through weekly reporting from regional staff. The weekly reports highlight examples of best practices and areas of concern that need to be raised with ACD's Director General.

3. Strengthen the Customs Code and Customs Policies

ATAR continued to support ACD in a review of its customs regulations and procedures to help ensure that they are aligned with international standards. ATAR concentrated its technical assistance on reviewing and discussing PCA legislation and procedures with the legal department.

4. Implement Risk Management Systems

ATAR continued to monitor ACD's risk management in Kabul, Herat, Jalalabad and Mazar-e Sharif through risk management data that was obtained at a regional level by ATAR's staff in the regions. ATAR developed a template for a weekly compliance snapshot that will allow ACD management to closely monitor regional compliance and performance data. This was developed as an interim measure until ATAR receives the comprehensive ASYCUDA World data.

WHAT IS BMM?

Afghanistan's BMM establishes clear roles and responsibilities for ACD, which is responsible for cross-border trade, and the Afghan Border Police (ABP), which is charged with immigration and national security at the borders.

The model encourages information sharing between the two entities to stem corruption, smuggling, and other illegal activities. The aim of the model is also to reduce interaction with other agencies operating at the border, thereby speeding trade across the border.

In July 2011, the BMM was implemented on a pilot basis at the Hairatan Border Crossing Point (BCP) in Balkh. Following this successful initial implementation, ACD implemented the model at other BCPs.

In April, ATAR undertook a joint visit with ACD's Director of Enforcement to Herat. They reviewed Herat's risk management system, checked processes, and conducted meetings to discuss concerns and issues. They ascertained there was a need for basic risk management awareness and training.

In effort to build ACD's regional capacity in risk management, ATAR delivered basic training on June 15 to ACD managers in Herat. The training covered risk management standards, processes, and steps as well as proper completion of an Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) profile request. In an effort to reach additional ACD staff, nominated trainers from ACD's Enforcement Directorate staff will deliver ATAR's risk management training to additional regions upon completion of ATAR's train-the-trainers course.

WHAT IS RISK MANAGEMENT?

In the past, ACD policy required all imports and exports be subjected to a physical examination; this caused delays in clearing goods and was an inefficient use of staff resources.

In 2012, ACD developed and implemented a revised interdiction strategy based upon the principles of risk management. Risk management is an internationally accepted approach to using limited resources to focus on trade transactions that pose the greatest risk, and allow all other trade transactions to be cleared with minimal or no controls.

Risks include revenue loss through undervaluation, misclassification, or smuggling and interdiction of prohibited goods such as narcotics or pre-cursor chemicals. On the other hand, under risk management, traders and brokers with a documented history of compliance with ACD's laws and requirements face minimal to no intervention.



ATAR delivered risk management training to ACD in Herat.

ATAR and ACD will also conduct joint visits to Mazar and Jalalabad to review risk management at those locations.

In May, ATAR met with the Director of Enforcement and Intelligence Manager to discuss risk management and profiling and re-implementation of the national anti-smuggling hotline. To progress risk management and profiling, it was agreed that a working group would be implemented to review profiles, improve targeting of non-compliant traders, and introduce international best practices.

On June 13, the risk management working group met for the first time. Seven ACD Enforcement Directorate staff members, as well as two ATAR staff, discussed the purpose of the working group and its objectives, data collected within regions and its significance, and action points for the next meeting. The participants agreed to focus on Jalalabad initially and agreed on seven action points for the next meeting.

Since then, the working group met regularly and agreed upon important changes to risk management, most notably of which was a reduction in the intervention rates at Jalalabad Inland Clearance Depot (ICD). These reductions will be achieved through analysis of relevant data and adjustment of risk profiles depending on levels of recorded risk. A reduction in these control levels will facilitate legitimate trade and allow ACD sufficient time to focus on examining goods believed to be high risk. Once implemented, the changes to these intervention rates will result in a further 110 consignments being released without intervention (green lane) every week. There will also be a reduction in the number of goods physically examined (red lane) by around 60 consignments a week.

The working group also took steps toward implementing the use of Random Selectivity at Jalalabad ICD. Random Selectivity allows ACD (on a automated level through ASYCUDA) to select a very small percentage of consignments that would otherwise have been selected for non-intervention (green lane). This allows ACD to “test the risk” and confirm the assessment that a particular consignment poses little risk. ACD can change their risk profiles accordingly in the event an infraction is identified. Random Selectivity also ensures a trader or broker can never pre-empt whether their consignment will be selected for examination or not. For example, even if a trader were to learn the commodity they imported was subjected to zero controls, there would still be a chance it could be selected for examination under Random Selectivity.

ATAR assisted ACD in reconfiguring the necessary equipment to service ACD’s national anti-smuggling hotline. It is anticipated that the hotline will be activated in July. However, there is a concern regarding the lack of an adequate regular power supply to keep the system operational over the weekends.

5. Implement Electronic Payment of Customs Duties

On May 30, ACD and DAB launched the pilot phase of the E-Pay of customs duties, which will allow those importing goods to pay customs taxes at any commercial bank in Afghanistan. The pilot phase is concentrating on the Kabul ICD and HKIA. On successful completion of the pilot phase, the remaining ICDs will be included.

Before the launch, ACD trained DAB staff on the accounting module of ASYCUDA, tested the connectivity between Kabul ICD and HKIA, and installed ASYCUDA software in DAB headquarters

The pilot phase initially encountered some minor technical problems, but there were quickly identified and resolved. The major communication companies such as Etisalat, MTN, AWCC and Roshan are using E-Pay to pay their customs duties.



Deputy Minister of Finance Gul Maqsood Sabit (center) spoke at the press conference announcing the launch of E-Pay of customs duties.

6. Increase Gender Representation in ACD

ATAR began an internship program in late 2014, placing young university graduates at ACD for six months to prepare them for a possible career at ACD or to give the foundation for a job in the trade sector. While ATAR focused on recruiting mainly females for the program, the vast majority of qualifying resumes were from males. ATAR selected nine interns, including two females and seven males, for the internship program.

Eight interns completed their six-month internships on June 7 and one intern on June 12. The students worked in ACD's tariff, exemption, PCA, valuation, tariff research and statistics, and transit departments. ATAR supported the ACD internship program through regular meetings and daily workplace support. ATAR began a second recruitment of ten interns in May for deployment in August.

7. Reduce Corruption at ACD

ACD began reviewing proposals submitted by ATAR on the Internal Audit Unit and Professional Standards Unit that will form part of a comprehensive compliance strategy. ATAR will discuss the proposals and the strategy further in May to progress implementation. If agreed upon, ATAR proposed the implementation of working groups to progress these initiatives.

In tandem with the ACD compliance strategy, ATAR regional staff began reviewing areas where enhanced use of automated systems may help reduce opportunities for corruption and identify management controls that are in place and being utilized by ACD managers. The review will highlight best practices and identify any shortcomings and propose solutions.

8. Implement Outreach Programs

ATAR helped ACD develop electronic payment educational posters that can be placed at ACD and commercial banks and assisted ACD in developing a press release regarding electronic payment. ACD, DAB and the Deputy Minister of Finance held a press conference on May 13 to announce the launch.

9. Support Streamlined Customs Procedures

ATAR regional customs specialists continued to monitor the current number of procedures at ICDs compared to the national blueprint for streamlined import procedures, which contains thirteen steps.

ATAR reported on the status of streamlined procedure compliance at the following ICDs: Kabul, HKIA, Jalalabad, Herat, and Hairatan. The latest status report highlights that all ICDs have introduced additional steps.

	Kabul ICD	HKIA	Hairatan ICD	Herat ICD	Jalalabad ICD
Non-compliant steps reintroduced	1	6	1	1	2
New steps introduced	4	1	5	4	7
Total Additional Steps	5	7	6	5	9
TOTAL	18	20	19	18	22

In addition to the above, ATAR is also reporting on the release times of consignments which are allocated to either the green lane (release), yellow lane (documentary check), and red lane (examination). The latest release times are shown below.

	Green	Yellow	Red
Herat ICD	45 Minutes	1 Hour	3 Hours
HKIA	50 Minutes	1 Hour	1 Hour 20 Minutes
Jalalabad ICD	1 Hour 12 Minutes	1 Hour 38 Minutes	2 Hours 25 Minutes

Balkh ICD	1 Hour	1 Hour 30 Minutes	2 Hours
Aquina ICD	50 Minutes	1 Hour 30 Minutes	2 Hours
Shir Khan Bandar	1 Hour	1 Hour 20 Minutes	2 Hours 30 Minutes

10. Support ANCA

ATAR developed a train-the-trainers course that focuses on presentation skills and delivered the course to 10 staff from the Afghanistan National Customs Academy (ANCA) and the ACD Enforcement Directorate in May. ATAR also developed “How to Deliver” training for the following modules: mobile verification teams, risk management, intelligence, ASYCUDA profile request forms, selectivity and



An ANCA employee practiced his presentation skills during ATAR's train-the-trainers course.

targeting, and pocket notebooks.

The workshops are scheduled for August. After delivery, ACD will be able deliver the training modules to all staff in those work areas.

ATAR continued to support ANCA in implementing best practice administrative guidelines and is in the final stages of drafting the instruction manual. ANCA trainers continued to review their own training material to agree on the latest versions, which will be transferred to the shared drive, exclusively for ANCA. In addition, ANCA trainers will also start drafting trainers' notes on training material they have transferred to the

shared drive.

ATAR continued to liaise with ACD's Director of Enforcement and the Mobile Verification Team (MVT) Manager on the development of MVT training. The duration of the MVT training modules is four weeks. The objective is to develop competencies, knowledge, and skills of officers through classroom and practical training. ATAR is translating the material and trainers' notes into Dari. At the request of ACD, ATAR developed and is translating modules on airport training, coach search, vehicle search, and freight examination.

In August, ATAR will deliver a workshop that will focus on how to deliver the MVT training modules. At the end of the training, ATAR will liaise with the Director of Enforcement and ANCA to formulate a plan to deliver the MVT training course to all MVT staff.

11. Enhance the Development of Post Clearance Audit

ATAR continued to support the development of the PCA Department and submitted to ACD an assessment of its PCA function in May. The report highlighted areas that need improvement to establish a PCA Department using international best practices.

ATAR's analysis found the customs law is insufficient to support a robust PCA approach; the PCA mandate is still linked to frontier operational activity instead of a central compliance-based function; existing review documents are too focused on linking PCA to targeting high-risk transactions and more enforcement-related activities; there are no formal PCA procedural guidance and associated working documents; there exists a lack of a well-documented and compliance-based audit plan; and PCA personnel are not trained in audit techniques and lack the required range of skills.

ATAR also submitted a PCA implementation action plan to ACD. The implementation plan contains strategic and operational decisions that need to be made in regard to legislative review and amendment; team mandate (compliance not revenue collection); geographical location (centrally located with the capacity to expand into the regions); infrastructure and resources; recruitment of technical personnel; reporting avenues; and access to ASYCUDA data.

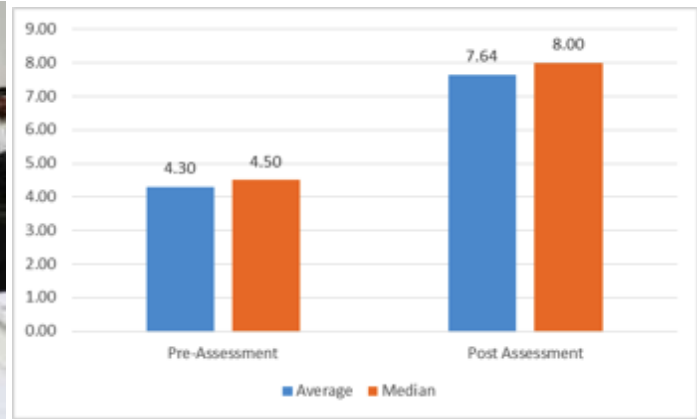
In a follow-up meeting with ATAR, the Director Operations supported the implementation of a PCA working group, which would progress the adoption of international best practices. The working group had an introductory meeting on June 1 and met on June 13 to discuss the working group, review the roadmap, and discuss allocation of tasks and highlight the responsibilities of the chairman and members.

12. Strengthening the TIR and Transit Regimes

On May 11-12, ATAR delivered a "TIR Train the Trainers for Customs – Using the TIR Carnets" for 24 participants from ACD and ANCA. The customs officers learned how to complete the TIR carnet, and all participants successfully passed the course. TIR is a customs transit system that simplifies the movement of cargo across at least one international border.

What is PCA?

PCA allows ACD to build confidence in a customer's internal operating procedures to identify his or her own compliance with relevant laws and procedures. As such, if a company has robust measures in place to ensure they follow all rules, then there is a better chance they will be voluntarily compliant. Once appropriate confidence is secured following the audit, ACD can then significantly reduce intervention controls for that particular trader. As these companies account for a large percentage of imports, ACD can focus their frontier efforts on the smaller percentage of traders that are less likely to be compliant.



ATAR delivered training to customs officers on how to complete a TIR Carnet (left). All participants passed a test upon completion and improved their knowledge of TIR (right).

13. Enhancing ACD Performance

ATAR collected data on revenue, trade, and other for a financial and economic model to evaluate the performance of the customs administration relative to good practices and allow the comparison of customs offices without regards to the size of the office. ATAR also provided training to ACD's Tariff Department on data entry into the designed model to obtain and interpret the results. The report is being reviewed.

Component 3: Looking Forward

- Continue regional work with ACD
- Progress the full implementation and automation of e-payment
- Continue to assist ACD in reviewing regulations and procedures
- Support ANCA in reviewing training material, developing new material, and delivering training
- Support ANCA in implementing training curriculum and standard operating procedures
- Continue implementation of the enforcement plan
- Support launch of national anti-smuggling hotline
- Support ACD to develop mechanisms for assessing their performance and gauge their efficiency
- Develop with ACD the timeline and activities for the implementation of an Internal Audit Unit and Professional Standards Unit
- Support of implementing a professional post clearance audit function
- Provide technical assistance to ACD in TIR and Transit
- Continue to draft appropriate modality assessment for collection of customs revenue in Pakistan
- Develop training modules in management and leadership skills
- Support risk management working group and PCA working group
- Recruit for and support new internship program

F. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION

ATAR Project Objective: Improved trade environment for Afghanistan, fostering increased investment, export, and market-based employment opportunities

USAID Afghanistan DO1: Sustainable, Agricultural-led Economic Growth Expanded

USAID OEG Afghanistan Mission PMP IR 1.1: addressed: Employment Opportunities

USAID OEG Afghanistan Mission PMP Sub-IR 1.1.4: addressed: Regional Trade Increased

USAID Afghanistan DO3: Performance and Legitimacy of Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) Improved

USAID OEG Afghanistan Mission PMP IR 3.1: addressed: Citizens Hold the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) Accountable

USAID OEG Afghanistan Mission PMP Sub-IR 3.2.2: addressed: Policies and Procedures Improved

Indicator Table⁹

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from start (Nov. 2013 to June 2015)	Project Achievement from April 2015 to June 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
Project Purpose: Business climate strengthened to enable private investment, enhanced trade, job creation, and fiscal sustainability through the critical Transition Period and continuing into the Transformational Decade										
1	Growth in trade volume (import, exports, transit)	Outcome/ Impact Required by Prime Contract	Country, per border crossing; commodity group; month, quarter; percent; and actual amount	GIROA	Annual	\$9.3 billion in 1391 excluding transit (CSO)	\$6.8 billion in 1393 (ACD)	\$6.8 billion in 1393 (ACD)	Tracking only	Trade volume is defined as the licit trade value of goods brought into Afghanistan (import), the value of Afghan goods sold in the foreign country or countries (export) and value of goods imported to Afghanistan from a country and exported to another country (transit). Total volume of trade in 1393 was \$6,797,675,878.64 based on ACD data, including imports (\$6,297,561,293.97) and exports (\$500,114,584.66).

⁹ Annual statistics gathered by GIROA are reported according to the Afghan solar calendar, in which 1391 covers March 2012 to March 2013; 1392 covers March 2013 to March 2014; and 1393 covers March 2014 to March 2015.

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from start (Nov. 2013 to June 2015)	Project Achievement from April 2015 to June 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
2	Growth in (real) gross domestic product (GDP) per capita	Outcome/ Impact Required by Prime Contract	By sector	CSO, World Bank Report	Annual	\$21 billion in 1391 (CSO)	\$21.2 billion in 1392 (CSO)	\$21.2 billion in 1392 (CSO)	Track-ing only	Missions are not expected to report on this indicator. The information is tracked by USAID's Economic Growth and Trade (EGAT). Annual percentage growth rate of GDP per capita based on constant local currency. GDP per capita is GDP divided by mid-year population. GDP at purchaser's prices is the sum of gross value added by all resident producers in the economy plus any product taxes and minus any subsidies not included in the value of the products. It is calculated without making deductions for depreciation of fabricated assets or for depletion and degradation of natural resources. Note: Based on a CSO report, the total value of Afghanistan's GDP in 1392 was \$21.2 billion.
3	Foreign trade(X-M) as a percentage of GDP	Outcome/ Impact Required by Prime Contract	By sector, import and export	CSO, World Bank Report	Annual	Import 39%, Export 6% in 2012 (World Bank)	Import 47% Export 6% 2013 (World Bank)	Import 47% Export 6% 2013 (World Bank)	Track-ing only	Missions are not expected to report on this indicator. The information is tracked by EGAT. Sum of exports as % of GDP and imports as % of GDP. Exports of goods and services represent the value of all goods and other market services provided to the rest of the world. They include the value of merchandise, freight, insurance, transport, travel, royalties, license fees, and other services such as communication, construction, financial, information, business, personal, and government services. They exclude labor and property income (formerly called factor services), as well as transfer payments. Imports of goods and services represent the value of all goods and other market services received from the rest of the world. Note: This indicator captures the percentage of foreign trade (import and export) in the GDP of Afghanistan.
4	Value of goods imported to the United States taking advantage of Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).	Outcome/ Impact Required by Prime Contract	Commodity group; month, quarter	ACD and CSO	Annual	\$123,500 (1391)	Will be reported next quarter	Will be reported next quarter	Track-ing only	The U.S. GSP is a program designed to promote economic growth in the developing world by providing preferential duty-free entry for up to 5,000 products when imported from one of 126 designated beneficiary countries including Afghanistan.
5	Export	Outcome/ Impact USAID requested indicator	Product, countries	GIROA	Annual	ACD = \$307 million in 1391 CSO = \$414.5 million in 1391	\$ 500 million in 1393 (ACD)	\$ 500 million in 1393 (ACD)	Track-ing only	Missions are not expected to report on this indicator. The information is tracked by EGAT. Sum of exports as % of GDP and imports as % of GDP. Exports of goods and services represent the value of all goods and other market services provided to the rest of the world. They include the value of merchandise, freight, insurance, transport, travel, royalties, license fees, and other services such as communication, construction, financial, information, business, personal, and government services. They exclude labor and property income (formerly called factor services), as well as transfer payments. Imports of goods and services represent the value of all goods and other market services received from the rest of the world. Disaggregation by country: exchange rate \$1=57.38 AFN India = \$152.69 million Pakistan = \$141.51 million UAE = \$41.81 million Turkey = \$29.83 million Tajikistan = \$29.55 million Iran= \$19.78 million Others = \$ 71.48 million

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from start (Nov. 2013 to June 2015)	Project Achievement from April 2015 to June 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
6	Import	Outcome/Impact USAID requested indicator	Product, countries	GIROA	Annual	ACD = \$7.464 billion in 1391 CSO = \$8.9 billion in 1391	\$6.29 billion 1393 (ACD)	\$6.29 billion 1393 (ACD)	Tracking only	<p>Missions are not expected to report on this indicator. The information is tracked by EGAT. Sum of exports as % of GDP and imports as % of GDP. Exports of goods and services represent the value of all goods and other market services provided to the rest of the world. They include the value of merchandise, freight, insurance, transport, travel, royalties, license fees, and other services such as communication, construction, financial, information, business, personal, and government services. They exclude labor and property income (formerly called factor services), as well as transfer payments. Imports of goods and services represent the value of all goods and other market services received from the rest of the world.</p> <p>Note: Based on ACD's data in 1393, total value of Afghanistan imports was \$6.29 billion.</p> <p>Disaggregation by country: Exchange rate \$1=57.38 AFN Pakistan = \$1.18 billion China = \$1.41 billion Iran = \$973.75 million Turkmenistan = \$382.54 million Kazakhstan = \$371.14 million Japan = \$329.77 million Uzbekistan = \$300.63 million Malaysia = \$292.92 million Others = \$1.31 billion</p>
7	Change in World Bank's Doing Business ranking, trading across borders indicator	Outcome/Impact Required by Prime Contract	None	World Bank Doing Business Annual Report	Annual	184 (Doing Business Annual Report 2014)	184 (Doing Business Annual Report 2015)	184 (Doing Business Annual Report 2015)	Tracking only	The World Bank Doing Business report presents quantitative indicators compared across 189 economies over time. Afghanistan was ranked 179 out of 183 in 2012 and 178 out of 185 countries in 2013. According to the 2015 report, Afghanistan is ranked 184 out of 189 countries.
8	Ease of Doing Business rank	Outcome/Impact USAID requested indicator	By sector	World Bank Doing Business Annual Report	Annual	164 (Doing Business Annual Report 2014)	183 (Doing Business Annual Report 2015)	183 (Doing Business Annual Report 2015)	Tracking only	The World Bank Doing Business report sheds light on how easy or difficult it is for a local entrepreneur to open and run a small- to medium-sized business when complying with relevant regulations. Based on the 2015 report, Afghanistan is ranked 183 out of 189 countries.
9	Number of public policies introduced, adopted, repealed, changed or implemented consistent with citizen input	Outcome/Impact USAID requested indicator	Policies introduced Policies adopted Policies repealed Policies changed Policies implemented	Project/program documents, direct observation, analysis of secondary data and third-party observation (i.e. monitoring of public policy by local NGO)	Annual	0	0	0	Tracking only	Public policies include any law, regulation, policy or similar directive that is formally adopted by either the legislative branch or a unit of the executive branch at any level.
PIR 1: Capacity of Afghan government and private sector to formulate and implement liberal policy framework for trade and investment strengthened										

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from start (Nov. 2013 to June 2015)	Project Achievement from April 2015 to June 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
10	Reduction in discrepancy between the Central Statistics Office and the ACD on trade statistics	Output USAID requested indicator	N/A	CSO/ACD	Annual	27%	19.90%	19.90%	10%	The difference between values reported by ACD and CSO divided by the average of the two values, shown in percentage. Note: Based on trade statistics data from ACD and CSO for 1393, the overall discrepancy was 19.90%.
PIR 1.1: WTO accession process finalized										
11	Number of WTO-related legal acts advanced through the legislative process with ATAR support	Output USAID requested indicator	Ministry partner	Project records and MOCI	Quarterly	0	19	4	30	<p>Bringing the legal framework in line with the WTO agreements is a pre-condition for becoming a WTO member. This indicator will capture progress made in the legislative process when draft laws (including amendments) and sublegal acts (regulations, orders) move from one stage to another.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Law on Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine submitted to the Council of Ministers by MOJ 2. Law on Animal Health and Veterinary Public Health submitted to MOJ by MAIL 3. Law on Geographical Indications submitted to Council of Ministers by MOJ 4. Law on Trademarks approved by Council of Ministers and submitted to Parliament 5. Amendments to the Customs Law submitted to Council of Ministers by MOJ 6. Amendments to the Patents Law submitted to Councils of Minister by MOJ 7. Procedure on Intellectual Property Border Enforcement submitted to the Minister of Finance for signature. 8. Procedure on Intellectual Property Border Enforcement adopted and came into force on April 12, 2014 9. Copyright Law submitted on July 27, 2014, by MOJ to the Council of Ministers. 10. Law on Animal Health and Veterinary Public Health submitted by MAIL to MOJ 11. Law on Geographical Indications submitted to the Parliament in Oct. 11, 2014 12. Law on Trademarks approved by Lower House and submitted to Upper House of Parliament in Oct. 29, 2014 13. Law on Trademarks approved by Upper House. 14. Law on Trademarks endorsed by President. 15. Law on Topography of Integrated Circuits law sent to MOJ. 16. Law on Plant Protection and Quarantine approved by Economic Commission of the Lower House 17. The Law on Geographical Indications approved by the Lower House of Parliament 18. The Law on Geographical Indications was approved by the Upper House of Parliament. 19. The Law on Trademarks was published by MOJ and came into force.

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from start (Nov. 2013 to June 2015)	Project Achievement from April 2015 to June 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
12	Number of WTO-related institutional reforms supported by ATAR	Outcome/Impact USAID requested indicator	Ministry partner	Project records	Quarterly	0	8	1	10	<p>Acceding to the WTO requires the establishment of new institutions or restructuring of existing institutions as well as development of new institutional processes related to customs, trade, and other areas. This indicator captures these types of institutional reforms supported by ATAR.</p> <p>The reforms in the project's results are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Institutional proposal accepted by MOCI for establishing a safeguard unit 3. Five ISO mirror committees established: petroleum products and lubricants; food products; textiles; gas cylinders; concrete, reinforced concrete and pre-stressed concrete 3. Mechanism for coordination and cooperation between ANSA and other government entities on enquiry/notification 4. Institutional proposal accepted by MAIL PPQD for establishing three PRA Units
13	Number of draft legislative items (including regulations, procedures, and amendments) prepared by the Working Group at Ministerial level with ATAR support	Output USAID requested indicator	Ministry partner	Project records, MOCI	Quarterly	0	39	10	12	<p>This indicator captures the number of new draft laws and sublegal acts prepared at the Ministerial level with ATAR support. This mainly refers to the first draft finalized at the Ministerial level.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Twelve procedures related to food safety drafted and agreed by working group at MOPH. 2. Three procedures related to Food Safety Law drafted and agreed by working group at MOPH during December 2014 to 31 March 2015. 3. One procedure related to Food Safety Law drafted and agreed by working group at MOPH during April-June 2015 4. Draft regulations for implementing Law on Animal Health finalized. 5. Seven procedures for implementing Law on Animal Health prepared by the working group at MAIL. 6. Five additional procedures implementing the Law on Animal Health prepared by the working group at MAIL during period Nov. 2014-March 2015 7. Four additional procedures implementing the Law on Animal Health prepared by the working group at MAIL during April-June 2015 8. Draft regulations to implement Law on Plant Protection and Quarantine prepared by working group at MAIL during April-June 2015 9. Four draft procedures for implementing Law on Plant Protection and Quarantine finalized during April-June 2015 10. Draft copyrights coordination procedure finalized during April-June 2015
PIR 1.2: WTO implementation process developed and executed										

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from start (Nov. 2013 to June 2015)	Project Achievement from April 2015 to June 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
14	Number of public events held to discuss trade and business policy matters with stake-holders, the public, and the private sector	Output Required by Prime Contract	Province, gender of participants	Project records	Monthly	0	198 events (participants include 1,837 males, 339 females)	31 events (462 participants include 423 males, 39 females)	60	A public event is defined as an ATAR-led and/or supported trade-related activity such as conference, seminar, trade forum, presentations to university students, trade campaign, presentation to Parliament or Ministries, working group meetings, roundtable discussions, and other trade gathering.
PIR 1.3: Private sector awareness of new opportunities for trade-related business development increased										
15	Number of awareness events held targeting the private sector	Operational Indicator Output	Gender of participants	Project records	Month-y	0	31	6	30	<p>The private sector is the main beneficiary of WTO accession. It is critical to educate the private sector about opportunities resulting from WTO accession and other trade agreements in order to enable necessary adjustments.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WTO awareness seminar for MOJ in February 2014 2. Awareness about regional opportunities (Dushanbe business-to-business event) June 2014 3. Fourteen awareness events about food control authority and the legal authority contained in the draft food law and its supporting regulations 4. Three events in October 2014 on building awareness of trade opportunities under CATF and World Food/Almaty 5. SPS awareness seminar at MAIL (Feb. 2014) 6. Awareness training seminar on trademarks for the private sector (Feb. 2015) 7. Awareness training seminar on procedures for trademark registration for the private sector (Feb. 2015) 8. Awareness training seminar on trademarks for the legal community (Feb. 2015) 9. Two training seminar on geographical indications for the private sector (March 2015) 10. Two awareness seminar on patents for private sector 11. Three awareness seminar on trademarks for academia 12. TIR awareness workshop for transport operator (ACCI)

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from start (Nov. 2013 to June 2015)	Project Achievement from April 2015 to June 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
16	Number of awareness documents prepared to educate about WTO and regional integration	Operational Indicator Output USAID requested indicator	Province	Project records	Quarterly	0	18	3	10	<p>This indicator will capture any type of awareness material developed with ATAR support in educating the private sector on WTO and trade opportunities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Document for President Karzai office on WTO 2. Presentation developed for WTO awareness seminar for MOJ 3. Awareness materials on TIR 4. Copyrights general pamphlet 5. Copyrights music pamphlet 6. Copyrights publishers pamphlet 7. Copyrights awareness article 8. Educational materials on indication of production of place 9. Presentation to educate Tajik public and private sector about APTTA 10. Note to President Ghani on Afghanistan's WTO Accession 11. Strengthening food safety in Afghanistan 12. Good hygiene practices for businesses 13. SPS agreement awareness PowerPoint 14. Note for President Ghani regarding bilateral trade issues with Pakistan 15. Note for President Ghani regarding transit trade issues with Pakistan 16. Awareness materials on geographical indications 17. Awareness materials on trademarks 18. Awareness materials on patents
PIR 1.4: Understanding and support for benefits of WTO and regional and bilateral trade agreements increased										
17	Change in public perception toward trade	Outcome/ Impact Required by Prime Contract	Province, gender, age	Perception survey	Annual	To be determined (TBD) from perception survey	TBD from perception survey	TBD from perception survey	40% increase	Increased understanding and support of the benefits of regional and bilateral trade agreements and WTO accession are vital. ATAR will conduct a survey to determine knowledge and perceptions among the general population and stakeholders.
PIR 2: Regional and global integration enhanced										

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from start (Nov. 2013 to June 2015)	Project Achievement from April 2015 to June 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes																																												
18	Percentage share of trade with regional partners	Outcome/ Impact USAID requested indicator	Country	National statistics of respective countries	Annual	TBD	See the notes column	N/A (to be provided end of 2015)	Tracking only	<p>This indicator will capture the share of Afghanistan's trade with regional partners. The regional partners are Pakistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, India, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan.</p> <table><tr><th rowspan="2">Country</th><th colspan="2">2013</th><th colspan="2">2014</th></tr><tr><th>Import</th><th>Export</th><th>Import</th><th>Export</th></tr><tr><td>India</td><td>2.5%</td><td>22.5%</td><td>2.2%</td><td>27.6%</td></tr><tr><td>Kazakhstan</td><td>3.7%</td><td>0.4%</td><td>5.6%</td><td>0.8%</td></tr><tr><td>Kyrgyzstan</td><td>0.1%</td><td>0.0%</td><td>0.2%</td><td>0.0%</td></tr><tr><td>Pakistan</td><td>21.1%</td><td>35.4%</td><td>19.2%</td><td>32.9%</td></tr><tr><td>Tajikistan</td><td>0.7%</td><td>2.4%</td><td>0.3%</td><td>5.9%</td></tr><tr><td>Turkmenistan</td><td>9.3%</td><td>3.0%</td><td>6.6%</td><td>1.3%</td></tr><tr><td>Uzbekistan</td><td>5.3%</td><td>1.9%</td><td>5.6%</td><td>0.5%</td></tr></table>	Country	2013		2014		Import	Export	Import	Export	India	2.5%	22.5%	2.2%	27.6%	Kazakhstan	3.7%	0.4%	5.6%	0.8%	Kyrgyzstan	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	Pakistan	21.1%	35.4%	19.2%	32.9%	Tajikistan	0.7%	2.4%	0.3%	5.9%	Turkmenistan	9.3%	3.0%	6.6%	1.3%	Uzbekistan	5.3%	1.9%	5.6%	0.5%
Country	2013		2014																																																			
	Import	Export	Import	Export																																																		
India	2.5%	22.5%	2.2%	27.6%																																																		
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Pakistan	21.1%	35.4%	19.2%	32.9%																																																		
Tajikistan	0.7%	2.4%	0.3%	5.9%																																																		
Turkmenistan	9.3%	3.0%	6.6%	1.3%																																																		
Uzbekistan	5.3%	1.9%	5.6%	0.5%																																																		
Sub-IR 2.1: Enabling environment for enhanced access to regional markets established																																																						
19	Number of signed initiatives on regional integration (Disaggregated by signed and launched)	Output USAID requested indicator	Type of initiative	Project records, MOCI	Quarterly	0	7	1	8	<p>Afghanistan is interested in deepening and expanding regional integration through new and existing agreements on trade, investment, economic cooperation, transport, and transit. This indicator will capture initiatives such as agreements, memorandums of understanding, and protocols launched or signed with ATAR support.</p> <p>1. Transit and Transport Agreement with Azerbaijan launched</p> <p>2. Mutual Assistance Agreement on Customs between Afghanistan and Tajikistan signed</p> <p>3. Protocol of Accession of Afghanistan to the CBTA-5 signed by the Council of Ministers of Afghanistan</p> <p>4. Trade and transit agreement with Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkmenistan launched</p> <p>5. Pakistan Afghanistan Tajikistan Transit Trade Agreement (PATTTA)</p> <p>6. India allowed Afghan trucks to unload cargo in Indian territory</p> <p>7. Lapis Lazuli Trade and Transit Agreement launched (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, and Turkmenistan)</p>																																												

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from start (Nov. 2013 to June 2015)	Project Achievement from April 2015 to June 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
20	Number of interactions between businesses (and other relevant groups) with government entities in the region involving policy reform dialogues	Output USAID requested indicator	N/A	ATAR project records	Annual	0	17	3	24	<p>This indicator will capture the number of interactions and dialogues between businesses and government organizations in the region on policy reform issues.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Two trade facilitation workshops in the Kyrgyz Republic in April and June 2014 A session during the Dushanbe business-to-business event related to policy reform involving businesses and government representatives A session led by MOCI/EPPA on March 19, 2014, with women businesses A session at MOCI on July 16, 2014, regarding para-tariffs under SAFTA A session at MOCI on July 17, 2014, regarding issues related to rules of origin Session on regional trade challenges and practices under an export development course in the Kyrgyz Republic in May 2014 Two roundtables in Kabul with private sector to discuss problems related to APTTA Transport and Logistics workshop held in Kyrgyzstan on Dec 22, 2014 Three public-private roundtables in Dushanbe on PATTTA in Feb. and March 2015 One public-private forum in Bishkek re the WTO TFA in March 2015 A session led MOCI to finalize SAFTA sensitive list in consultation with private sector, ACD and other ministries Seminar on "Promoting Afghan Exports to South Asia" entailed significant dialogue between 80 businesses and government officials from MOCI and MOF/ACD A roundtable in Bishkek on trade facilitation involving Ministry of Economy, border agencies, and traders on April 21
21	Number of proposals discussed to harmonized customs procedures or documents on transit corridors	Output USAID requested indicator	BCP	ATAR project records	Annual	0	9	2	20	<p>This indicator will capture the modernization and harmonization of customs rules and procedures with international standards on transit corridors to reduce border crossing costs and delays.</p> <p>ATAR launched a number of customs harmonization initiatives, including risk management and post clearance audit that are ongoing.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Memorandum on information exchange and trade facilitation between Afghanistan and Tajikistan Memorandum on mutual exchange of risk management information in customs matters (Afghanistan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan) Modality for single border stop between Afghanistan and Pakistan Recommendations for conformity with WTO TFA in Afghanistan Recommendations for conformity with WTO TFA in Kyrgyz Republic Recommendations for conformity with WTO TFA in Tajikistan Recommendations on advance rulings in Kyrgyz Republic Recommendations on AEO for Uzbekistan Recommendations to improve coordinated border management in Tajikistan

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from start (Nov. 2013 to June 2015)	Project Achievement from April 2015 to June 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
22	Number of firms receiving USG capacity building assistance to export	Output USAID requested indicator	Type of firm/ participants/ gender	Project records, EPAA	Monthly	0	788 firms	125 firms	400 firms	<p>Capacity building assistance refers to market research, short-term technical assistance to government and/or private-sector beneficiaries, study tours and international trade fairs/exhibitions, exporter training sessions, networking and training supported by ATAR. ATAR helped build the capacity of 788 firms, as detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 2014 Dushanbe business-to-business event: 45 Afghan businesses, 60 Tajik businesses, 50 Kyrgyz businesses, • 107 businesses from Dushanbe business-to-business event • July 2014 EPAA seminar series on market research and international markets: 10 • July 2014 seminar series on global logistics: 8 • October 2014 training and roundtables to prepare for participation in CATF/World Food: 13 • February/March 2014 preparatory meetings for CABOC in Afghanistan: 40 • 20 business attended two trainings on exports in Kabul • 110 business attended TIR conference in Kyrgyzstan • 81 businesses attended two roundtables and one seminar on export credit • 7 businesses were assisted to participate in Domotex • 15 businesses participated in India Stone Mart • 9 businesses were assisted to participate in Gulfood • 9 business participated in Aahar exhibition • 10 business were trained on Letter of Guarantee • 5 businesses were assisted to participate in World Food Exhibition in Kazakhstan in Nov. 2014 • 13 businesses were assisted to participate in a craft selling exhibition in Italy • 51 businesses comprising of businesses and government officials participated in TIR awareness seminar in Kabul • 22 businesses were participated in access to finance for trader conference • 23 businesses were participated in trade finance training • 80 private exporters participated in "Promoting Afghan Exports to South Asia" in May 2015
Sub-IR 2.2 Benefits from enhanced market access expanded										
23	Cost to travel 500 KM per 20 ton (\$)	Outcome/ Impact USAID requested indicator	Corridor 5 Corridor 6	CARE Corridor Performance Management and Monitoring (CPMM)	Annual	\$ 1,580 Corridor 5, \$ 719 Corridor 6	\$2,393 Corridor 5 (2013)	\$2,393 Corridor 5 (2013)	Tracking only	The total cost to travel here refers to a cargo truck traveling 500 km per 20 ton of goods. Both official and unofficial payments are included.

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from start (Nov. 2013 to June 2015)	Project Achievement from April 2015 to June 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
24	Number of laden vehicles crossing Afghanistan border in each direction	Outcome/ Impact Required by Prime Contract	By Torqundi, Hairatan, Sher khan Bandar, Torkham and Weish	ACD	Annual	(As of 2012) Hairatan: 66,851Im ports 2,734 Exports Torqundi: Imports: 43,209 Exports 542 Sher Khan Bandar: Imports 4,050 Exports 16,199 Torkham: Imports 175, 770 Exports: 32,451 Weish: Imports 35,166 Exports 2,167	Will be reported next quarter	Will be reported next quarter	Tracking only	This indicator refers to the number of declarations and number of vehicles paying custom duties.
25	Average cost of crossing borders (\$)	Outcome/ Impact USAID requested indicator	Corridor 5 Corridor 6	CPMM	Annual	\$157 (2012)	\$235 (2013)	\$235 (2013)	Tracking only	The average of total expenses (\$) to move cargo from an exit point of a country to the entry point of another country. The entry and exit points are typically a primary control center where customs, immigration, and quarantine are done. Both official and unofficial payments are included. This indicator is normalized at 500 km as a basis of unit, so that average cost between long and short corridors is comparable.
PIR 3:Revenue generation for fiscal sustainability strengthened through reforms and anti-corruption measures in customs and taxation										
26	Growth in customs revenue (overall and per border crossing)	Outcome/ Impact Required by Prime Contract	Per border crossing	ACD	Annual	\$694 million in 1391	\$875 million 1392	\$875 million 1392	Tracking only	A customs duty and tax refers to tax on the importation and exportation of goods collected by custom houses.
PIR 3.1: Customs procedures to increase transparency, efficiency, and uniformity in the collection of revenue, performance of core functions, and facilitation of trade improved										

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from start (Nov. 2013 to June 2015)	Project Achievement from April 2015 to June 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes																												
27	Number of permanent professional positions allocated for women within ACD that have been staffed	Outcome/ Impact USAID requested indicator	Gender, age, education level	ACD	Quarterly	77	1 (58 ACD)	0	175	In line with the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework and the National Action Plan for Women, ATAR will support ACD in meeting benchmarks related to increasing female participation in elected and appointed bodies at all levels of governance to 30 percent by 2020.																												
28	Number of female interns completing a six-month internship in ACD	Outcome/ Impact USAID requested indicator	Gender, age, education level	ACD	Quarterly	20	18	15	100	ATAR will support ACD to implement an internship program at ACD for university women. The internships will be headquarter-based rotational placements for a period of six months. Note: In the last six months from January to June, ATAR hired 15 interns, 4 females and 11 males. Nine of the interns interned at ACD, 2 females and 7 males. ATAR will focus on recruiting women under the next internship program.																												
29	Average number of days required to trade goods across borders (average of export/import time)	Outcome/Imp pact Required by Prime Contract	Province	ACD World Bank Doing Business report	Annual	Herat: 6 hours 17 minutes Hairatan: 3hrs 43 minutes Jalalabadd 4 hours 18 minutes Sher Khan Bandar: 2 hours 13 minutes Aquina: 3 hours 21 minutes	Herat: 3 hours and 30 minutes Hairatan: 2 hours 40 minutes Jalalabad 3 hours 30 minutes Shir Khan Bandar: 2 hours 30 minutes Aquina: 2	Average Herat: 1 hour and 35 minutes Hairatan: 1 hour 33 minutes Jalalabad 1hours 55 minutes Shir Khan Bandar: 1 hour 37 minutes Aquina: 1 hour and 27 minutes	2 hours	<p>This Sub IR indicator is from the World Bank’s annual Doing Business report (see the indicator table in the back of the publication). It is a component of the “trading across borders” section, and is comprised of the components called “time to export (days)” and “time to import (days)”</p> <table><tr><th>ICD</th><th>Green</th><th>Yellow</th><th>Red</th></tr><tr><td>Mazar (Balkh ICD)</td><td>1hr</td><td>1hr 20min</td><td>1hr 50min</td></tr><tr><td>Aquina ICD</td><td>50min</td><td>1hr 30min</td><td>2hrs</td></tr><tr><td>SKB</td><td>1hr</td><td>1hr 20min</td><td>2hrs</td></tr><tr><td>Herat</td><td>45min</td><td>1hr</td><td>3hrs</td></tr><tr><td>Jalalabad</td><td>1hr 38min</td><td>1hr 50min</td><td>2hrs 30min</td></tr><tr><td>HKIA</td><td>50min</td><td>1hr</td><td>1hr 20min</td></tr></table> <p>Note: ATAR is not working at Kabul ICD due to security.</p>	ICD	Green	Yellow	Red	Mazar (Balkh ICD)	1hr	1hr 20min	1hr 50min	Aquina ICD	50min	1hr 30min	2hrs	SKB	1hr	1hr 20min	2hrs	Herat	45min	1hr	3hrs	Jalalabad	1hr 38min	1hr 50min	2hrs 30min	HKIA	50min	1hr	1hr 20min
ICD	Green	Yellow	Red																																			
Mazar (Balkh ICD)	1hr	1hr 20min	1hr 50min																																			
Aquina ICD	50min	1hr 30min	2hrs																																			
SKB	1hr	1hr 20min	2hrs																																			
Herat	45min	1hr	3hrs																																			
Jalalabad	1hr 38min	1hr 50min	2hrs 30min																																			
HKIA	50min	1hr	1hr 20min																																			
30	Number of documents required to export/import goods across borders decreased as a result of USG assistance	Outcome/ Impact Required by Prime Contract	Import, export	The current source is the World Bank Doing Business report. ACD has not yet confirmed numbers	Annual	10 Import/ 10 Export (World Bank Doing Business report 2014)	10 Import/ 10 Export (World Bank Doing Business report 2015)	10 Import/ 10 Export (World Bank Doing Business report 2015)	Track- ing only	Reduction in the number of documents required to trade goods across borders as imports or exports; change in the total number of documents required as per World Bank Doing Business Indicator, confirmed by the Mission. Reducing the number of different documents required in cross border trade is key to maximizing the improved efficiency that trade generates as a basis for faster economic growth and poverty reduction. Business report. Based on the 2015 report, Afghanistan requires 10 documents for import and 10 for export while the average document required for South Asia is 8 for import and 10 for export.																												

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from start (Nov. 2013 to June 2015)	Project Achievement from April 2015 to June 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
31	Time to export/import	Outcome/Impact USAID requested indicator	Import, export	The current source is World Bank's Doing Business report. ACD has not yet confirmed numbers	Annual	85 days, import, 81 days, export (World Bank Doing Business report 2014)	91 days, import, 86 days, export (World Bank Doing Business report 2015)	91 days, import, 86 days, export (World Bank Doing Business report 2015)	Tracking only	Missions are not expected to report on this indicator. The information is tracked by EGAT. The time necessary to comply with all procedures required to export goods. If a procedure can be accelerated for an additional cost, the fastest legal procedure is chosen. Doing Business compiles procedural requirements for exporting a standardized cargo of goods by ocean transport. Documents associated with every official procedure are counted—from the contractual agreement between the two parties to the delivery of goods—along with the time and cost necessary for completion. For exporting goods, procedures range from packing the goods at the warehouse to their departure from the port of exit. The time and cost for ocean transport are not included. Payment is made by letter of credit, and the time, cost and documents required for the issuance or advising of a letter of credit are taken into account. The ranking on the ease of trading across borders is the simple average of the percentile rankings on its component indicators.
32	Number of customs systems in line with international best practices adopted	Outcome/Impact USAID requested indicator	ICD	ATAR project records	Annual	0	7	1	15	<p>Systems refer to valuation, risk management, E-Pay, appeals, simplified import procedures, and the national hotline.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Simplified Procedures is constantly being reported on. It has been proposed that a review takes place due to the implementation of ASYCUDA World. 2) Post Clearance Audit has not been implemented under international best practice. ATAR is supporting ACD to assist in this area. 3) E-Payment is not fully implemented but should be later this year. 4) ATAR has submitted an implementation paper for a Professional Standards Unit 5) ATAR has submitted an implementation paper for an Internal Audit Unit 6) The national anti-smuggling hotline will be reactivated in the near future. 7) ATAR entered discussions with ANCA to implement best practices in regards to administrative controls of training material.
33	Number of risk management procedures adopted at customs depots	Outcome/Impact USAID requested indicator	ICD	ATAR project records	Annual	0	0	0	10	<p>A procedure refers to risk awareness self-assessments, risk profiling, risk registers, and management controls as part of roll-out of risk management.</p> <p>Note: This will be a priority in the next period. ATAR will undertake an informal review of the current systems in place for risk profiling, risk management profiles (part of internal audit unit review to improve internal compliance), risk registers etc.</p>
34	Number of training modules developed by ATAR	Outcome/Impact USAID requested indicator	None	ATAR project records	Annual	0	17	9	45	<p>This indicator captures number of modules ATAR developed in support of ANCA from the start of the project through March 2015: 1. Basic Risk Management; 2. Intermediate Risk Management; 3. Risk Profiling; 4. Valuation Fraud; 5. Valuation (Basic); 6. Professional Standards; 7. PCA Awareness / Implementation; 8 Compliance for Senior Management</p> <p>Training modules developed from April to June 2015 include: 1. Mobile verification team; 2. Vehicle search; 3. Coach search; 4. Airport; 5. Freight; 6. Compliance and risk management; 7. Audit procedures and working papers; 8; Post clearance audit process; 9. Operational and tactical audit planning</p>
35	Revenue collection by electronic means	Outcome/Impact USAID requested indicator	ICD	ACD	Annual	0	0	0	75%	<p>The collection of revenue by electronic means relates to the amount of ICDs that have ASYCUDA and the percentage of declarations processed through ASYCUDA compared to the total of declarations received at all ICDs.</p>

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from start (Nov. 2013 to June 2015)	Project Achievement from April 2015 to June 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
36	Person hours of training completed in trade and investment enabling environment supported by USG assistance	Operational indicator Output Required by Prime Contract	Gender, Topic	Project training records	Monthly	0	116 trainings (1,849 participants including 1,558 male and 291 female) 1,6747 person days of training	17 trainings (333 participants including 287 male and 46 female) 2114 person days of training	120 trainings/ 1,200 participants	This indicator uses the following equation to express the number of USG-supported training hours that were completed by training participants: Hours of USG supported training course x Number of people completing that training course Support from the USG: This indicator counts training hours that were delivered in full or in part as a result of USG assistance. This could include provision of funds to pay teachers, providing hosting facilities, or other key contributions necessary to ensure training was delivered.
Cross-Cutting Indicators										
37	Number of consultative processes with private sector as a result of U.S. government assistance	Operational Indicator Output Required by Prime Contract	Province, gender of participants	Project records	Quarterly	0	13	6	24	<p>Negotiating and implementing agreements requires intense coordination and cooperation among ministries and state bodies as well as with the private sector and civil society. Working groups for consultations on developing trade policies, negotiation strategies, trade procedures, and draft legislation with private sector will be captured under this indicator.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consultative meeting on Feb. 22 with fruit and vegetable businesses 2. Consultative meeting on March 3 with handicraft, carpet, gemstones, and marble businesses 3. Consultative group with representatives of chambers from four regional counties (Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan) to establish a sustainable mechanism for cooperation across the region 4. Consultative meeting with KCCI regarding customs valuation practices 5. Working group for development of implementing regulations for Law on Food Safety 6. Consultations by the MOPH with private sector regarding changes to fees for import of pharmaceuticals and medical equipment 7. Working group on developing implementing legislation for the Law on Animal Health 8. Consultative meeting on sensitive list with stakeholders 9. Consultative meeting with Afghan Marble Association on problems faced by marble sector 10. Consultative meeting with the Ministry of Transport on revising transport laws in the context of TIR 11. Consultative meeting with MOCI on reactivation of TIR 12. One customs Consultative meeting in Bishkek between customs and traders on June 18 13. Consultative working group on trade facilitation Lake Issyk Kul June 15-16
38	Person-days of training of key personnel in trade and customs regulation	Output USAID requested indicator	Province, Gender	Project records	Monthly	0	120 days	32 days	70 days	<p>Government, private sector participants, days, hours in trainings of trade and customs regulation.</p> <p>Note: All events that ATAR conducts are trade-related for this indicator ATAR just considers customs events.</p>

#	Indicator	Indicator Type	Disaggregation	Data Source	Timing	Baseline	Project Achievement from start (Nov. 2013 to June 2015)	Project Achievement from April 2015 to June 2015	Life-of-Project Target	Notes
39	Number of laws, policies, or procedures drafted, proposed or adopted to promote gender equality at the regional, national or local level (GNDR-1)	Output USAID requested indicator	By law, policy, or procedure	project/program reporting	Annual	0	0	0	Tracking only	Any law, policy, or procedure designed to promote or strengthen gender equality at the regional, national or local level, which was developed or implemented with USG assistance.

G. COLLABORATION

Links with relevant Afghan government ministries

ATAR's success is dependent on its close relationship with the Afghan government, specifically ACD, MOCI, MOJ, EPAA, and other ministries and government agencies relevant to Afghanistan's WTO accession and trade environment. ATAR had staff embedded at ACD, MOCI, MOJ, and EPAA to work with staff regularly, but faced security challenges at times.

ATAR's expatriate staff was unable to embed at ACD due to security restrictions, but the expatriate staff conducted meetings and short visits as possible and relied on local staff that largely remained embedded with intermittent security restrictions. In addition, following an explosion at the MOJ in May, local staff that had been embedded at MOJ moved their permanent location to MOCI and worked at MOJ on an as-needed basis.

Despite these security issues, ATAR continued working closely with ACD, MOCI, and MOJ and other relevant ministries and related entities such as MAIL and MOPH by conducting meetings, trainings, and working groups to ensure that government officials were part of the decision-making process and had a thorough understanding of topics such as WTO activities (including draft laws, regulations, and procedures) and international standards.

Links with other donor agencies

In support of the project's activities in Central Asia, ATAR continued to work with donor agencies, in particular GIZ. ATAR led discussions during a GIZ-sponsored regional workshop on the WTO TFA and worked with GIZ to hold a WTO TFA roundtable in the Kyrgyz Republic. UNCTAD and UNECE also participated in the regional TFA workshop.

Links with other USAID projects

In Central Asia, ATAR was co-located with USAID's REC project at the Chemonics' office in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and continued to coordinate on regional trade activities. ATAR also supported the U.S. Department of Commerce's CLDP in its TIFA working group meetings.

In Afghanistan, ATAR liaised with USAID's CHAMP, ABADE, RADP-S, and FAIDA on events and activities such as the Kabul seminar on promoting exports to South Asia and the agreement between EPAA and the two banks on better credit terms for exporters.

H. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Personnel

The Component 1 Team Manager position remained open. Recruitment for the Component 3 Deputy Team Manager is completed, while recruitment for Component 1 and Component 2 Deputy Team Managers is ongoing.

Adaption of the activity


No major changes to the project's statement of work were made during the reporting period.

Modifications and Amendments

Modification 5, dated May 5, 2015, increases the obligated amount.

ANNEX A: USAID SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

E-Pay press conference on USAID Facebook in May

 USAID Afghanistan Photos

✓ Liked

E-Payment for Afghan Traders

Updated about 2 months ago


Thanks to the modern system launched by the Afghanistan Customs Department and Da Afghanistan Bank, Afghanistan's traders will be able to pay their customs duties electronically through any commercial bank.

E-payment will help to automate customs collection, facilitate trade, and align Afghanistan with modern systems across the world.

"This is very good news for traders," said Deputy Minister of

Finance Gul Maqsood Sabit. "This will bring transparency and help reduce corruption."

The E-payment system will pilot at Hamid Karzai International Airport and Kabul Inland Clearance Depot and then roll out to customs offices on a nationwide basis. USAID's Afghanistan Trade and Revenue Project helped Afghanistan Customs Department and Da Afghanistan Bank to design and reach an agreement on the new system.





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1 Share

39 people like this.


Most Relevant

“Promoting Afghan Exports to South Asia” seminar on USAID Facebook in May

 **USAID Afghanistan** Photos 


✓ Liked

USAID supports Afghanistan in increasing exports

Updated about 2 months ago 


More than 80 traders and government officials gathered on May 12 in Kabul to discuss increasing Afghanistan's exports to the booming markets of South Asia. Minister of Commerce and Industries Humayoon Rasaw, Indian Ambassador Amar Sinha, and Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock Salim Khan Kunduzi opened the “Promoting Afghan Exports to South Asia – Opportunities and Challenges” seminar. South Asia is one of the fastest growing economies in the world, and Afghanistan is just beginning to tap into opportunities rising from its strategic location next to the region. The Ministry of

Commerce and Industries, the Export Promotion Agency of Afghanistan, and USAID's Afghanistan Trade and Revenue project partnered to organize the seminar to help traders learn about opportunities in South Asia and enable them to find solutions to trade challenges in the region. The USAID projects work closely with the Afghan government and the private sector to increase exports through a range of activities from the field level to supporting international trade and transit agreements.



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↗ 3 Shares

 60 people like this.

Most Relevant ▾

“Afghanistan Goes Global” video on international trade exhibitions on USAID Facebook in April



The image is a screenshot of a Facebook post from the official page of USAID Afghanistan. On the left, a video player shows a woman, Sana Siddiqi, wearing a patterned headscarf and a red garment, standing in a trade exhibition hall. A red banner at the bottom of the video frame reads "Sana Siddiqi | Businesswoman". The video player interface includes a play button, a progress bar, and a timestamp of 1:45 / 2:26. On the right, the Facebook post content is visible. It features the USAID Afghanistan logo and the text "Page Liked · April 12 ·". The post title is "Afghanistan Goes Global". The main text of the post states: "USAID helps the Afghan government to raise awareness of the country's products and increase exports. See the Gulfood trade exhibition in Dubai here...". Below the text, it shows "1,116 Views" and interaction options: "Like · Comment · Share". The post has "72 people like this." and "28 shares". There is a comment box with the placeholder text "Write a comment...". At the bottom, a section titled "People You May Know" lists "Johan Wolmarans" as a "1 mutual friend" with an "Add Friend" button.

ANNEX B: AFGHAN INFO ACTIVITY REPORT

ATAR Activities List in Afghan Info					
Province	District	Village	Start Date	End Date	Activity Description
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	4/1/2015	4/1/2015	On April 1, ATAR assisted MAIL's Animal Health Directorate in conducting two working groups to review the procedure on sanitary measures for the import and transit of cattle and buffalo.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	4/1/2015	4/15/2015	During the first half of April, ATAR provided input for talking points on Afghanistan-Pakistan trade and transit trade facilitation and the status of implementation updates for MOCI's Deputy Minister Shinwari and Director General Rahim to use during discussion with Pakistani counterparts.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	4/1/2015	4/15/2015	In the second half of April, ATAR shared a draft syllabus for the course called "Afghanistan Agriculture Import/Export Markets and Plant Health Standards" with Kabul University and PPQD to solicit their feedback.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	4/1/2015	4/15/2015	In the second half of April, ATAR shared a draft syllabus for the course called "Introduction to Food Safety" with Kabul University and National Agricultural Education College to get their feedback.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	4/1/2015	4/30/2015	ATAR assisted EPAA in organizing Expo Milano and developing communication materials for the event, which will be held in Milan, Italy, from May 1 to Oct. 31.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	4/1/2015	4/30/2015	ATAR completed its assessment of Turkmenistan's legal, regulatory, and institutional framework for conformity with the WTO TFA and is translating the document for transmission to Turkmen authorities .in Turkmenistan
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	4/1/2015	4/30/2015	ATAR completed the study on regional comparative advantage and trade complementarity and identify viable value chains. ATAR produced a 275-page report detailing the analysis. in Uzbekistan
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	4/1/2015	4/30/2015	ATAR completed the translation of the assessment of the Turkmen customs code with WTO agreements and the World Customs Organization (WCO) Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) and shared the Russian version with USAID Turkmenistan. in Turkmenistan
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	4/1/2015	4/30/2015	ATAR prepared an outline for one week of training on customs risk management and authorized economic operators to be delivered to Uzbek customs. in Uzbekistan
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	4/1/2015	4/30/2015	ATAR translated the geographical indications and trademark material into Dari and has submitted it to MOCI.

Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	4/1/2015	4/30/2015	During the seminar, ATAR and MOCI also delivered presentations on the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) agreement and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS).
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	4/1/2015	4/30/2015	In April, ATAR assisted MAIL's Animal Health Directorate in conducting three working groups to review procedures in support of the animal health law.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	4/1/2015	4/30/2015	In the second half of April, ATAR completed development of a proposal for dialogue between Tajik customs and interested private-sector representatives on the requirements to comply with post clearance audit requests. in Tajikistan
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	4/1/2015	4/30/2015	In the second half of April, ATAR finalized the Russian translation of the report "Benefits and Challenges of the potential Afghanistan-Pakistan-Tajikistan-India Trade and Transit Agreement" and submitted it to the First Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade. in Tajikistan
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	4/1/2015	4/30/2015	On April. ATAR developed public awareness materials in support of the geographical indications, trademarks, and patent law.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	4/5/2015	4/5/2015	On April 5, ATAR assisted EPAA in signing a memorandum of understanding with ARFC and AIB to provide exporters with easy access to credit.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	4/6/2015	4/6/2015	In April 6, ATAR assisted MAIL in conducting a working group to finalize the third procedure in a manual of procedures that support the law on plant protection and quarantine
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	4/9/2015	4/10/2015	ATAR facilitated the organization and logistics connected with the trip of the Afghan delegation to Dushanbe for April 9-10 trilateral consultations with Pakistani and Tajik counterparts regarding PATTTA. in Tajikistan
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	4/14/2015	4/14/2015	On April 14, ATAR supported MOPH in conducting a working group meeting on the procedure for food hygiene practices for manufacturing, packing, or holding. Participants included staff from MOPH, MOCI, EPPA, the National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA), ANSA, Kabul University, and the private sector.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	4/15/2015	4/15/2015	On April 15. ATAR assisted MAIL's Animal Health Directorate in conducting two working groups to review the procedure on sanitary measures for the import and transit of cattle and buffalo.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	4/20/2015	4/20/2015	On April 20, ATAR assisted MAIL in conducting working groups regarding the fourth procedure in the manual.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	4/21/2015	4/21/2015	On April 21, ATAR assisted EPAA in organizing training on trade finance for 35 exporters. The objective of the training was to educate exporters on different trade finance products offered by various banks in Afghanistan.

Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	4/21/2015	4/21/2015	On April 21, ATAR worked with GIZ to hold a roundtable on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) for 29 representatives of trading companies, service associations, and donor organizations. in Kyrgyzstan
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	4/22/2015	4/22/2015	On April 22, ATAR assisted MAIL's Animal Health Directorate in conducting a working group to review the procedure on sanitary measures for the import and transit sheep and goats.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	4/25/2015	4/25/2015	On April 25, ATAR delivered training on patents examination and registration to 20 staff members, six females and 14 males, of MOCI's Afghanistan Central Business Registry-Intellectual Property (ACBR-IP) office.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	4/26/2015	4/26/2015	On April 26, ATAR conducted a seminar on WTO post-accession for MOCI's WTO Unit and Regional Trade Agreements Departments. Thirty government officials, including five women, from MOCI and other relevant ministries attended the presentation.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	4/27/2015	4/27/2015	On April 27, ATAR assisted MAIL in conducting working groups regarding the fourth procedure in the manual.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	4/27/2015	4/27/2015	On April 27, ATAR completed 80 hours of trainings on the "Application of Computer Software for Trade Statistics and Analysis" for trade specialists from the Central Statistics Organization (CSO), MOCI, and EPAA.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	4/29/2015	4/29/2015	The Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation (MOTCA) and ATAR held a working group on April 29 to review outdated transport laws, the creation of a new National Transport/Trucking Association, and the feasibility of operating a training institute accredited by the International Road Transport Union (IRU).
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/1/2015	5/15/2015	In Kyrgyzstan, ATAR in May of the formation of a working group to oversee implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), based on information given by ATAR in two prior presentations.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/1/2015	5/15/2015	ACD and Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) continued to progress e-payment to the pilot phase of introducing commercial banks to the payment system.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/1/2015	5/15/2015	ATAR completed development of the train-the-trainers course that will be delivered in mid-May to staff from the Afghanistan National Customs Academy (ANCA) and the Enforcement Directorate.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/1/2015	5/15/2015	ATAR prepared a document on patents registry to support the Afghanistan Central Business Registry-Intellectual Property (ACBR-IP) in the development of a registry.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/1/2015	5/15/2015	ATAR prepared terms of reference (TOR) for supporting ANSA in developing a legal and institutional framework for national metrology. The TOR is pending approval.

Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/1/2015	5/15/2015	In Kyrgyzstan, ATAR completed its review of the Kyrgyz government resolution that is a regulation of the implementation of the activities of an authorized economic operator (AEO).
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/1/2015	5/15/2015	In Tajikistan, ATAR developed a proposal to improve an existing regulation and program for the issuance of preliminary decisions (or "binding decisions" or "advance rulings").
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/1/2015	5/15/2015	In Tajikistan, ATAR translated and delivered to the Tajikistan State Customs Services the proposal for dialogue between Tajik customs and interested private-sector representatives on their obligations to comply with post clearance audit requests. Tajik customs will review these materials.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/1/2015	5/15/2015	In the first half of May, ATAR conducted five days of training for 27 members of MAIL's Plant Protection and Quarantine Department (PPQD) on conducting Pest Risk Assessments (PRAs) that will help support implementation of the plant protection and quarantine law.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/1/2015	5/31/2015	ATAR provided training to ACD's Tariff Department on data entry into the designed model to obtain and interpret the results.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/1/2015	10/31/2015	ATAR helped support start-up of the Afghan Pavilion at Expo Milano, which began May 1 and will run to Oct. 31, in Milan, Italy.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/3/2015	5/3/2015	ATAR delivered awareness seminars on patents to 30 members of the private sector to help support implementation of the patents law. Each awareness seminar covered an introduction to patents, patentable subject matter, non-patentable subject matter, criteria for patentability, exceptions to patent rights, and other topics.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/4/2015	5/4/2015	On May 4, ATAR delivered awareness seminars on patents to 30 members of the private sector to help support implementation of the patents law. Each awareness seminar covered an introduction to patents, patentable subject matter, non-patentable subject matter, criteria for patentability, exceptions to patent rights, and other topics.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/5/2015	5/5/2015	On May 5, ATAR supported a working group meeting at MOPH to review the procedure for food hygiene practices for manufacturing, packing or holding. This procedure would support implementation of the food safety law.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/6/2015	5/6/2015	On May 6, ATAR assisted MAIL's Animal Health Directorate in conducting a working group to review the procedure on sanitary measures for the import and transit of horses, donkeys, and mules. This procedure would support the law on animal health and veterinary public health.

Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/9/2015	5/9/2015	On May 9, ATAR conducted seminars on WTO post-accession for MOCI's WTO Unit and other stakeholders. Thirty-one government officials, including seven women, from MOCI and other relevant ministries attended the May 9 presentation.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/11/2015	5/11/2015	On May 11, ATAR conducted seminar on WTO post- accession for MOCI's WTO Unit and other stakeholders, more than 30 people, including five women, attended the May 11 presentation.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/11/2015	5/12/2015	On May 11-12, ATAR delivered a "TIR Train the Trainers for Customs - Using the TIR Carnets" for 24 participants from ACD and ANCA.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/12/2015	5/12/2015	On May 12, ATAR assisted EPAA and MOCI in organizing a seminar called "Promoting Afghan Exports to South Asia: Opportunities and Challenges" for more than 80 traders and government officials.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/12/2015	5/15/2015	In Uzbekistan, ATAR delivered training for 21 officers of Uzbekistan's Customs Committee from May 12-15. This is the first event of any kind held by USAID directly with Uzbek customs for more than a decade.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/14/2015	5/14/2015	In Turkmenistan, ATAR completed translation of the assessment of Turkmenistan's legal, regulatory, and institutional framework for conformity with the WTO TFA into Russian language. The report was submitted to USAID Turkmenistan on May 14.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/15/2015	5/31/2015	On May, ATAR translated and delivered to the Tajikistan State Customs Services the recommendations to improve the institutional settings of the Customs Post Clearance Control and Audit Unit and to effectively link the audit findings to the customs risk management system. in Tajikistan
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/16/2015	5/20/2015	ATAR developed and delivered a train-the-trainers course to 10 staff from ANCA and the ACD Enforcement Directorate.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/19/2015	5/19/2015	On May 19, ATAR and MOCI's Afghanistan Central Business Registry-Intellectual Property (ACBR-IP) delivered an awareness seminars on trademarks to 32 members of academia in Kabul.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/19/2015	5/19/2015	On May 19, ATAR supported two working group meetings at MOPH to review the procedure for food hygiene practices for manufacturing, packing or holding. This procedure would support implementation of the food safety law.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/19/2015	5/20/2015	On May 19-20, ATAR held a Transports Internationaux Routiers (TIR) awareness workshop for transport operators at ACCI
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/20/2015	5/20/2015	On May 20, ATAR and ACBR-IP delivered an awareness seminar on trademarks to seven members of ACD.

Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/20/2015	5/20/2015	On May 20, ATAR assisted MAIL's Animal Health Directorate in conducting working groups to review the procedure on sanitary measures for the import and transit of horses, donkeys, and mules. This procedure would support the law on animal health and veterinary public health.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/25/2015	5/25/2015	ATAR held a presentation on May 25 at ACD to review a One Stop Border Post model developed with ATAR support. ACD gave its consent on proposed model but suggested obtaining approval from the Ministry of Finance before discussing the modality with other stakeholders.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/25/2015	5/25/2015	On May 25, ATAR conducted a working group to review procedure four of the manual of procedures for plant protection regulation and quarantine. The technical team of PPQD and representatives of the private sector and MOCI reviewed the procedure, and suggestions were recorded for further development of the procedure.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/26/2015	5/26/2015	On May 26, ATAR and MOCI's Afghanistan Central Business Registry-Intellectual Property (ACBR-IP) delivered an awareness seminars on trademarks to 32 members of academia in Kabul.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/27/2015	5/27/2015	On May 27, ATAR assisted MAIL's Animal Health Directorate in conducting working groups to review the procedure on sanitary measures for the import and transit of horses, donkeys, and mules. This procedure would support the law on animal health and veterinary public health.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/28/2015	5/28/2015	On May 28, ATAR provided on-the-job training for staff of ACBR-IP in performing trademark functions, including examination, classification, and registration. ATAR also prepared a document on automated trademark registry, including structure and functions of a database, and submitted the document to ACBR-IP in Dari and English.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	5/30/2015	5/30/2015	On May 30, ACD and Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) launched the pilot phase of the electronic payment of customs duties. The pilot phase will concentrate on the Kabul Inland Clearance Depot (ICD) and Hamid Karzai International Airport (HKIA).
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	6/1/2015	6/1/2015	: On June 1, ATAR assisted ACBR-IP in understanding and advancing the development of implementing regulations based on model legislation developed under another TOR, and assisted in advancing the development of Rules Governing Registrar of Geographical Indications based on model legislation developed under another TOR. ATAR built capacity at ACBR-IP providing awareness presentation.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	6/1/2015	6/1/2015	On June 1 and June 8, ATAR conducted two working group sessions on procedure four of the manual of procedures regarding the Plant Protection and Quarantine regulation. The technical team of PPQD, Kabul University, ACCI and MOCI representatives reviewed the procedure and made suggestions for improvements.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	6/1/2015	6/1/2015	On June 1, 2015, ATAR provided on-the-job training in performing trademark related functions including examination, classification, and registration and built capacity of ACBR-IP.

Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	6/2/2015	6/2/2015	On June 2, ATAR supported MOPH in conducting a working group session to review the procedure on food hygiene practices for manufacturing, packing, or holding. Participants in the working group included MOPH, MOCI, and Export Promotion Agency of Afghanistan (EPAA), the National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA), the private sector, and Kabul University.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	6/8/2015	6/8/2015	On June 8, ATAR conducted a working group meeting on plant protection regulation procedures
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	6/10/2015	6/10/2015	On June 10, ATAR conducted a working group to review the procedure VCIE Veterinary Control of Import and Export /201x application for the issuance of an International Veterinary certificate for the export of an animal. Participants reviewed the procedures and made suggestions for improvements.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	6/15/2015	6/15/2015	On June 15, ATAR conducted a risk management training
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	6/16/2015	6/16/2015	On June 16, ATAR conducted a training on ASYCUDA request profile
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	6/22/2015	6/22/2015	On June 22, ATAR conducted plant protection regulation procedures working group meeting.
Kabul	Kabul	KABUL	6/23/2015	6/23/2015	on June 23, ATAR conducted a food regulation working group